Snodland Historical Society Newsletter

Volume 16, Issue 1 www.snodlandhistory.org.uk December 2012

Contacts

Dr Andrew Ashbee (Chairman), 214, Malling Road, Snodland, Kent ME6 5EQ
e-mail: aa0060962@blueyonder.co.uk

Ms Pamela Doolin (Secretary), 9 Hegarty Court, Snodland, Kent ME6 5BW
e-mail: pdoolin@tiscali.co.uk

Subscriptions

Subscriptions for the new season are due from 1 September 2012 and should be paid before February 2013, otherwise membership will lapse. They should be sent to Mrs Brenda Ashbee, 214, Malling Road, Snodland, Kent ME6 5EQ or paid at one of the meetings. Single subscriptions are £7.50 and joint subscriptions £10.00 a year. (I guess it would be helpful if exact money can be tendered if possible!)

Society Meetings 2012

At the Devonshire Rooms, Waghorn Road, Snodland, Wednesdays at 8 pm. Free to members. Visitors £1 per meeting.

6 February 2013. Colin Brown. Ordnance Survey ancient and modern. The history of Ordnance Survey and modern map and data centres. (Mr Brown runs our local centre at Rainham.)

6 March 2013. Ann Kneif. The history of the Kentish seaside resorts until the First World War—the development of the seaside resorts, the means of travel, accommodation, bathing and beach occupations as well as other entertainment available to the visitor.

3 April 2013. Norma Crowe, Local Studies Librarian at the Medway Archives, will give a talk on Sir Cloudesley Shovell (1650-1707), MP for Rochester, Queen Anne's favourite Admiral. A brief look at his life, death and legacy.

1 May 2013. To be arranged.

Museum Closure

The Museum will be closed on and from December 12th and will re-open on January 9th 2013.

Do you have memories to share?

A suggestion has been made that we could have an evening in which members share their reminiscences of Snodland (and district?) in times past. The ideal time for this would be at the next AGM in October 2013. If you would be willing and able to spend 5-10 minutes regaling us with what you remember it could prove an enjoyable evening. Let one of the Committee members know so that we can plan ahead.

More documents transcribed

I am extremely grateful to Pat Gest who has continued to transcribe the Parish Council minutes. She has completed all the years from 1894 to 1937 and 1939-45. When 1938 is done she will deserve a well-earned rest from this task.

Pat has also transcribed the Electoral Rolls for 1978/80 (pre-Bypass) and 1983/4, following on from Neil Miners' transcription of 1951. These give us a cross-section of Snodland names later than those currently available from censuses, etc. We have paper copies at the Museum arranged by Road and by Surname and will put the Road lists online (which will be searchable of course).

Our member Valerie Brown has very kindly given us her transcriptions of the censuses 1841-1911 for Addington, Leybourne, Offham and Ryarsh and these have been put on the Museum computer for public use. To complement these it would be good to complete the Birling censuses, for which we currently have just the Ham Hill part of the parish. If there are any volunteers willing to help with these I can copy the original pages from our CDs at the Museum. They need to be entered in a Microsoft Excel programme.

World War II

Although we have had some material for a considerable time, we are now working on collecting as much information as we can about Snodland people during World War II with a view to producing a booklet. Our pamphlet 15 gives a good summary of events in the village, although more can now be added to it from the Parish Council Minutes. Also I was able to print some pages from the *Kent Messenger* of the time which were available for a while as samples for their digitalisation project. These give news of men repatriated in 1943 as part of an exchange of prisoners and also give details of the heroism of George May and others when a land mine fell on the gas works.

A starting point has been the list of casualties on the war memorial, for which basic information – service, number, date of death, place of burial or memorial – has been taken from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. We seek further information on their families, addresses, occupation, etc., so if anyone can supply these we would be very grateful – also pictures of the men. There are other casualties which for some reason are not on the memorial – for instance the people killed by the doodlebug (and now listed on their own memorial at the surgery), pilots like Tommy Pinkham and the German Schultz, who was buried in our cemetery until his body was repatriated after the war.

Then there are the survivors. We have a rough list compiled by Rev. Pridmore of men in his parish of Lower Birling who he knew were serving in the forces. Six of them are marked as prisoners of war, to which I have been able to add a further five names; I am sure there were many more.

The fine photograph of the ARP which we have at the museum is of those serving at home. At present we have very little on the Home Guard – just a very fuzzy photograph of one group.

What we have compiled so far shows that it was indeed a World War, with Snodland men serving anywhere on the globe. Please help if you can in asking around for information.

Waghorn

In 2007 I wrote three articles for The Clock Tower, the journal of the Medway Archives. Two of them were about Waghorn and one asked 'Who was Waghorn's father?' I speculated that he might be the Thomas Waghorn born at Otham in 1768. Now Mark Austin who traces his descent from Samuel, Thomas senior's brother, has confirmed that this is so, adding that there is a family resemblance between his relations and his illustrious four-times great uncle. Details are in the latest Clock Tower.

photo by Bob Coomber

Newspapers

I continue to monitor the British Library Newspaper Archive as it grows. We are still waiting for digital copies of our local newspapers to be put online: *Kent Messenger*; *Maidstone and Kentish Journal*; *Chatham, Rochester and Gillingham News*. However, the run of *Dover Express* has been extended into the nineteenth century and Snodland is mentioned there 212 times. The British Association for Local History, to which we belong, alerted me to the Australian newspaper archive online at trove.nla.gov.au/newspapers. I had searched this successfully for Waghorn, but not for 'Snodland' and I was amazed at the number of entries. So I also tried the USA and Canadian newspaper archives, but little is shown there – mostly duplicating what appeared in Australia. Clearly it will be worth looking at other areas too for people who emigrated from Snodland, as well as noting which stories achieved international recognition.

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Society Meeting 2013

At the Devonshire Rooms, Waghorn Road, Snodland, Wednesdays at 8 pm. Free to members. Visitors £1 per meeting.

1 May 2013. Wilf Lower: Medway Tales of the Dividing River.

AGM: 2 October 2013. We intend to include reminiscences of parishioners about Snodland in times past.

Museum

A number of donations have been made recently.
Brian Williams, Company Secretary at the Paper Mill (and later the Manager), has presented two cannon balls found in the creek. The smaller one is of iron and the other is the now the largest in our collection, extremely heavy, of stone, and with the Ordnance arrow on it.
Three files of papers from the Snodland Stagers (from the estate of Eileen Norris, the Secretary).
Papers from the estate of the late Ted Gowers concerning Formby's Cement Works and local house sales. (from Frank Smith of Halling Historical Society)
A family bible of 1835 with (apparently local) details of the families of Martin and Carr (estate of Sybil Finch).
A Freemasons clay pipe and numerous small pots and bottles (thanks to Sue Brooks).
Copies have been made of deeds for Langford Cottages in Queen's Avenue (loaned by a tenant).
A copy has been made of the original deed for the Victoria Room at Christ Church (thanks to Sheila Miles).

Genealogy

We are extremely grateful to Geoffrey Porter and Valerie Brown for transcribing the censuses of Birling and of Halling. Valerie has also transcribed the censuses for Addington, Leybourne, Offham, Ryarsh. She has made lists of births, marriages and deaths from the Halling parish registers from 1705 (the earliest surviving volume): baptisms to 1917; marriages to 1929; and burials to 1946. These have been all been added to the computer files at the Museum and can be seen and searched there. More will be done and we'll look to putting them on our web-site.

Postcard lists

Members have asked for lists of what Snodland/ Hambrook postcards we have so that they can look out for others at stalls, fairs, auctions, etc.. Recently a number of hitherto unknown Snodland cards appeared on e-bay, but bidding between collectors was very fierce and I did not attempt to join in. They sold at prices between £45 and £75 a card. Non-Snodland cards by Hambrook are less sought after, but even these are rising in price. Work is in progress on a catalogue of cards (or good scans) we hold and at the moment this is found under the 'catalogues' heading on the home page of our web-site. There are five lists:

A: 'Kent Series' postcards by Hambrook: one series in colour and the other in mauve-sepia within a wide white frame. Hambrook's name is on the reverse.

B: Hambrook's numbered series (currently beginning at 1002 and ending at 1369), identified as 'H Bros S'.

C: Other Hambrook Kent postcards. All those not included in A and B, but showing some believed or known to be by Hambrook, but which have a local shop name as the publisher.

D: Hambrook's Snodland postcards. Many of these were re-issued over the years with variant forms of caption. An attempt is made to list these.

E: Snodland postcards excluding Hambrook. There are many publishers, not all in the village.

A list of topographical images of Snodland arranged according to the SHS numbering system is the first of several which we hope to add in the future.

Cards which we do not have as originals or good scans are marked 'N'. 'S' denotes we have only a good scan of the card.

World War II

I have had an encouraging response to my request for information in *Downsmail* regarding those who served in World War II. A list of information about the casualties recorded on the War Memorial has been put on our web-site and is already frequently accessed. (WWI remains by far the most popular of all our internet files.). Pictures are not included, but I have been grateful for those received which will certainly be part of the printed record we are compiling.

Roman Coins

At last we have a selection of the Roman coin hoard which was found in 2006 on display at the museum. Giles Guthrie of Maidstone Museum collected the hoard from the British Museum just before Christmas and brought a selection to Snodland on 5 March. He has another small display of them at Maidstone.

The British Museum cleaned, sorted and catalogued the 3600 coins, so they arrived in many small packets listed according to the emperor, the mint where they were made, and their identity according to the standard Roman Imperial Coinage catalogue. All are of the smallest bronze type, so are difficult to see clearly. I am gradually scanning them so that larger prints are available (like those in the picture above). Condition of most coins is very good since they were protected by the pot containing them.

I have also downloaded the 242-page report by Archaeology South-East about the whole dig, although in due course they plan to publish a final monograph or article about it.

Newspapers

On 22 March I attended the launch of the Kent Messenger digital archive at Chatham Dockyard. This is a free site to all users in the UK and covers all issues of the South Eastern Gazette (which became the KM) from 1852 to 1912. (WWI and WWII years are currently being processed for addition later.) It is not the most straightforward site to use, so here are some instructions.

Go to www.kentonline.co.uk and click on 'digital archive, then 'pages from our past' and again 'pages from our past' when a larger image appears. At this point you need to register/log in. This includes 'paying' at the 'shop' (which is free to UK residents, but not to overseas clients). A search engine for 'simple keyword search' and/or 'simple date search' will bring up any successful finds, detailing the issue date and page number. There are various viewing options shown by buttons beneath a thumbnail. 'Zoom' gives a preview of the whole page (not very clear); 'Add page to bookshelf'; 'view page in high res. searchable pdf'' gives an excellent readable copy, but with the next button 'save pdf' there is an intermediate step where one has to 'keep' the image (which then converts to pdf). This is then searchable via the 'find' box. It is a wonderful site.

By chance a week before the KM launch, the British Library added the *Maidstone Telegraph* to its on-line newspapers. This is not a paper I had heard of, but issues from 1859 to 1871 are available to view. Some entries are exact duplicates of those in the *South Eastern Gazette*, but there are many differences too. The *MT* includes train time-tables showing it took two hours from Snodland to London Bridge just three years after the line opened. There were eight trains to London each day, and were many special trains, including one direct to Ascot Races from Snodland and other places (without any changes!).

The 1850s have provided useful information on the new buildings then being erected. 'Mr. Tomlin' built not only the well-known row of 'Tomlin's cottages', but also all those in Birling Road—about 55 houses in all. A John Roots 'of Luton, Chatham, and Snodland' lived in 'The Lodge' in 1854, but was declared a bankrupt. He had a brickfield in Constitution Hill and was building ten houses, only four of which were completed at the time of his bankruptcy. His works and houses were put up for auction. Soon after arriving in 1855 Charles Townsend Hook put up for sale 'the small comfortable private residence containing 13 rooms ' with stable, etc. This can only be the Court Lodge, then beside All Saints church. The Queen's Head Inn was built by J.G.Naylar, one time alderman and mayor of Rochester; the architect was a Mr

Clifton.

And here are two pieces from New Zealand newspapers which shed some light on the short-lived film studios at the clock tower:

The Evening Post, 2 July 1936. A Chinese actor, Lai Foun, one of a variety troupe, the Six Lai Founs, is going to produce pictures in England. He has become a director of the Bijou Film Company, which has taken studios at the village of Snodland near Gravesend, and is now spending 100,000 dollars on equipping them. Lai Foun is now working on a scenario for his first production with S. I. Hsiung, the Chinese author of "Lady Precious Stream," which is still running at a London theatre. Mr Hsiung and his wife recently returned to England from the United States.

The Auckland Star, 22 August 1936. A Chinese film, to be written by S. I. Hsiung, author of that enormously successful play, "Lady Precious Stream," is to be produced at Snodland, Kent. The producing company is the Bijou Film Company, of which Mr. Lai Foun, the noted Chinese actor who will star in the picture, is a director. London and China will be the setting for the story which will concern a Chinese artist who, after a success in London, returns to China to marry. The Bijou Film Company has in preparation two other Chinese scenarios. In "Shadow Sweetheart" Mr. Foun will play opposite Diana Wong, and in "Violin Song" he will be partnered by a young Japanese actress, Margaret Kato.

The web-site is paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/

Although the following article does not concern Snodland, it rehearses all the arguments for and against the value of a cement works to a community. We have heard them all here.

The Standard, August 24th 1874.
THE SWANSCOMBE PORTLAND CEMENT WORKS

The high-road running through, Northfleet, Stone and Galley-hill was, on Saturday, the scene of an unwonted demonstration. A procession of bloused workmen, their wives and children, to the number of between four and five thousand, accompanied by bands, and carrying numerous flags and banners, was on the march to the Rectory Grounds, Swanscombe. The main body of these people consisted of the *employés* of Messrs. J. B. White Bros., Portland Cement Manufactory, Swanscombe, and their friends. The occasion of the display needs a word of explanation. Certain of the inhabitants of Swanscombe and Northfleet state that their health is seriously affected by the smoke from the chimneys of the cement manufactory; others that the vicinity of these works deteriorates the value of their property. Thos finding reason for complaint have taken legal proceeding with a view to entirely suppressing the manufacture of Portland cement in the neighbourhood. To consider their position then, under this aspect of affairs, the workers belonging to Messrs. White's firm, and the tradespeople and residents of the several immediate parishes, turned out to enter their solemn protest against any disturbance of the existing state of things. The country for several miles round was profusely decorated with flags, many of which bore inscriptions such as "Honest labour should be well protected," "Live and let live,", "Success to all cement manufacturers". Before the procession marches a man bearing a loaf aloft on a spear, behind cam several with paintings representing the cement factories, over which were written the significant words-"Our daily bread." The occupations of some of those depending for their livelihood upon the manufactories were brought very visibly before the eye. The boatmen were drawn along the road in an immense boat with sails unfurled and pennons flying; the carrier had his van. Those trades which did not admit of so forcible a representation as the foregoing were depicted in their leading characteristics, upon canvas. Northfleet and Swanscombe contain a population of about 6500 inhabitants, the majority of whom, either directly or indirectly, derive their sustenance from cement manufactories. In the one establishment of Messrs. White 800 men and boys are employed, and the number of souls depending upon the exertions of these is 4000. The average earning for a man is 30s. a week; the total weekly wages paid is upwards of £1000.
Shortly after four o'clock in the evening the processionists assembled in the meadow appointed for the purpose at Swanscombe, and the Rev T. H. Candy, rector of the parish, was called upon to preside. His testimony with regard to the alleged nuisance was that during the six years of his residence the number of deaths had been steadily diminishing, even though the population was increasing. At present it is about eleven or twelve in 1000. The parish of Swanscombe numbers 2000 people, which is double what it was 20 years ago. After the reverend chairman, a host of working men came to testify their soundness in wind and limb. John Bardoe, a bricklayer, had been employed in the cement works for 36 years. He was as healthy as could be desired, and knew no cause of complaint in the neighbourhood, save one – that cement workers were universally troubled with large families. This sally produced a good deal of mirth, which rather increased when the philosophic bricklayer reproved the audience in the following terms:- "It's no laughing matter, mind you, I've got the trouble to bear on my own shoulders." James Walkley, another *employé*, a man of about 24 stones weight, remarked that he was "one of the sick ones." He had been engaged in cement making since 1830, during which time he had not been a day either sick or idle. Before the factories had been established in the district ague had been very common; but, owing to the smoke from the furnaces heating the air, the disease did not amount to one-fourth its former prevalence. Hugh Mitchell, the secretary to the working men's benefit club, had been engaged in the works for seven-

teen years. The health and comfort of the men and their families were shown in the fact that at Christmas there was a balance of £123. 14s. to the credit of the club, which sum was apportioned among the men in shares on 8s. 6d. each. The Rev. Mr. Odell, Wesleyan minister, explained that an application had been made to the attorney for the prosecution of the indictments to allow the case to stand from October till the following sessions, in order that there might be an opportunity to judge the effect of the extensive improvements in process of being carried out at the manufactories. The reply was that no alterations or improvements would satisfy the complainants, who believed the nuisance to be irremediable (groans). Nearly £4,000,000 had been paid for labour in the various cement works since they were commenced. Fathers had placed their sons in the factories, and the latter, in their turn, brought their children up to the same employment. They could not consent to the wishes of those who wanted the position of the works changed; as the manufacture could only be carried on where nature had designed a suitable place. The Rev. Mr. Shrewsbury, Congregationalist, said the experiment which had been made within the last two years for diminishing the smoke had proved satisfactory. He lived a great deal nearer the chimneys than some of those who complained, and only once or twice in the period of the four years of his residence had he noticed anything like smoke in his neighbourhood. It had never in the slightest degree injured his health. With regard to the deterioration of property, three or four years ago there were 18 empty houses worth from £40 to £80 per annum to the landlord. Those were now all let except two. A portion of land near the factories of the Messrs. White had been offered eight years ago for £500 per acre; only a short time since it was valued at £1000 per acre. Those chronically sick persons who were affected by the smoke, and their number could be counted upon the fingers, would have to leave the vicinity. Large interests could not be disturbed because a few people murmured. James Ward, aged 60 years, had been employed 40 years in the cement works. He was now "open to run or jump with the best of them." Mr. Heys proposed a resolution to the effect that the proceedings against the Messrs. White were unjustifiable. He had an experience of fifteen years, close under the chimneys, and neither he nor his family during that time had been affected by the smoke. The only nuisance in the neighbourhood was the marshes, the owners of which, he thought, should be compelled to drain them. The resolution was adopted. Mr. D. Pearse moved a resolution to the effect that the meeting regarded with anxiety the misery that would ensue should their opponents succeed in closing Messrs. White's establishment. The resolution was adopted. The Rev. Mr. Shrewsbury moved a resolution to the effect that the meeting was cheered by the idea that those who figured in the prosecution would considerably modify their mode of procedure on maturer reflection. The Rev. Mr. Odell, in seconding the resolution, maintained that if the manufactory were to be closed "some 20,000 Kentish men would know the reason why" (great cheering). The testimony of the masters of the ships in the river was, that the health of the boys on board the Goliath, Chichester, or the other vessel, had not been in any way affected by the smoke from the factories. The resolution was adopted. A protest against the pending proceedings, signed by a great number of those who were prevented from attending the meeting, was read; and a protest of a somewhat similar character was extensively signed in the field. Votes of thanks to the chairman and principal speakers brought the proceedings to a close.

Our member Peter Coulls found the attached photograph in his parents' effects. He wonders what the event was, and when. I recognise one or two people and guess the date to be around 1950. We would be grateful if anyone can (a) answer the what and when questions and (b) identify any of the persons in the picture. It was taken outside the (back of the) Bull Hotel.

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Volume 16, Issue 3 www.snodlandhistory.org.uk September 2013

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Secretary (vacant)

After five years as Secretary, Pam Doolin has tendered her resignation from the post and as a committee member. She has increasingly found that she has been unable to attend meetings and feels it is not fair or sensible to continue. We thank her very much for her work and enthusiasm, not forgetting all she did as a volunteer for England's Past for Everyone.

Subscriptions

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Society Meetings 2013-14

At the Devonshire Rooms, Waghorn Road, Snodland, Wednesdays at 8 pm. Free to members. Visitors £1 per meeting.

October 2nd 2013. AGM. Followed by an evening of reminiscence about old Snodland and Halling led by members. All are encouraged to participate. Pictures will be shown to help and prompt responses.

November 6th 2013. Patricia Richardson will give a talk on the history of Addington. Patricia is the author of *Addington: the life story of a Kentish village*, which was published in 2012.

December 4th 2013. The usual slide show of pictures and other items acquired during the year. Seasonal refreshments will be served.

February 5th 2014. [to be arranged]

March 5th 2014. Wilf Lower: Lost Empires - the Last Days of Music Hall & Variety

April 2nd 2014. [to be arranged]

May 7th 2014. David Carder: Hospitals and Almshouses. A look as these venerable institutions, including some local examples.

Other meetings

14 September 2013: Heritage Weekend: 2-5 pm. All Saints church will be open from 2 to 5 pm and Andrew Ashbee will give guided tours at 2.00, 3.00 and 4.00.

December 4th 2013 [morning] SHS will have a stall at Medway Archives as part of their Open Day.

September 2014 [date to be fixed]. Snodland Library (a Monday, p.m.) Andrew Ashbee: Snodland and the First World War

Pamphlets

Chris Howick has revised Pamphlet no. 11: *People of Old Snodland Remembered*. We have replaced the original two separate parts with one A4 size booklet, still at the same price of £3. A few new people have been included for the first time.

Andrew Ashbee has compiled *Snodland men who served in the Great War 1914-1918* in time for the anniversary in 2014. He has

searched available records for information on those from Snodland who served and survived, but more information is always welcome. The booklet also includes those who died (as recorded in our Pamphlet 19) and who are also listed on our web-site. This particular file is by far the most frequently accessed of all those we have uploaded. 72 pages A4 size: £5.

Wouldham website

Adam Mumford has been in touch as he compiles a web-site about Wouldham. We have granted permission for some of our pictures to be included and the whole can be viewed at www.wouldhamvillage.com . (There is a link from our own web-site.)

More research materials

I am very grateful to Valerie Brown and Geoffrey Porter for their continuing work on transcribing census returns and parish registers. We'll look to putting at least some of these online, but they are available on a computer at the museum. The remaining Burham censuses are in hand. We now have births, marriages and deaths for Halling (as noted in the last newsletter), Kemsing and Ightham. Birling and Ryarsh registers will be added. Brian Joyce, President of Chatham Historical Society, and I have been corresponding about links between the Swedenborgian churches in Snodland and Chatham. My original enquiry was to discover if he knew anything about Joseph Privett and family who moved to Chatham around 1871 after helping the Hooks found the Snodland Society. So far nothing about them, but Brian has kindly sent information about the three Swedenborgian churches in Chatham, from which it is clear that the sect was established there from 1801. His transcription of a baptismal register gives the names of several ministers who were also involved with the church at Snodland.

Repairs to All Saints in 1844-5

I have recently acquired a scanned copy of a document in Canterbury Cathedral Archive which is a 'Specification of the work and Particulars of the Materials to be used in rebuilding the East end of the Chancel of the Parish Church of Snodland in the County of Kent according to the Designs of Richard Charles Hussey, Architect, 1844.' Comprising 24 pages it adds significantly to the information previously gleaned from the Rector's accounts; he paid for it all himself. Richard Charles Hussey (1806-87) was a Birmingham architect with strong Kentish links, whose principal work was in renovating and restoring churches. Within the county he worked on churches at Frittenden, Stockbury, Faversham and Detling, but Snodland is a new discovery. A few extracts from the specification help show what has and has not survived.

'The present East end ... to be taken down, but previously ... he is to take the exact level of the window so as to be able to replace it in the same situation. ... The windows that are to be disturbed are to be repaired with stone to match the old work.

The sills, jambs, mullions, tracery & arches of the large East window & of the Eastern window on the South side to be repaired & reinstated exactly as they now are, & all defective stones to be made new exactly like the old ones.

There follows details about the string course and 'the small quatrefoils under this string', and the panels under the East window. *'The two side panels to have the Creed & Lord's Prayer cut on them & the letters to be coloured as shown in the Drawings.'* Many more details then follow about the way the east wall stonework is to be integrated with that of the chancel sides.

The steps from the floor of the Chancel up to the Communion Table to be removed & refixed in the situation marked in the Drawings & any defective stones to be replaced with new. ... The wooden panels that are now fixed at the sides of the East window are to be made to fit into the new stone panels in the same situations & to be securely fixed; the fronts of them are to be worked perfectly true & to be gilt in the very best manner & the commandments to be written on them in black & red letters according to the Drawings, the whole to be executed in the very best style: a Drawing will hereafter be given to shew the exact form of the letters for these panels and also for the panels under the East

window.

The Altar railing to be executed in best Riga or other equally good oak to be approved of by the architect, perfectly sound and well seasoned, & to be securely fixed by iron stays leaded into the stones under the paving & in such manner at the ends as may be found best in execution; ... the gates to be each hung with an iron centre at the bottom working on a steel pivot fixed on the paving & one very strong brass projecting hinge at the top, they are also to have one strong brass flush bolt with proper plate, one to strike into the paving & the other to be fixed on the top rail to keep the gates shut.

The glazing in the window on the south side was to be reinstated in all respects, which suggests it had no coloured glass. Elsewhere *The East window is not to be glazed & the old glass is to become the property of the Contractor, except the coloured glass, the whole of which is to be very carefully taken out & to be given to Mr Phelps. The present altar railings are also to be taken down by & to become the property of the Contractor.*

Phelps's accounts (of which two copies survive) show 'Hussey £35.0.0' paid to the architect. The contractor seems to have been 'Tassell & Co', about whom nothing is known. Possibly they were connected with Robert Tassell, papermaker owner at East Malling. Substantial sums were paid to them: £100 in 1844; about £70 plus '£113' [or '£131' in the duplicate account] and other small sums, including 'Beer for Workmen', 'Allowance to Workmen' and 'a present to the men'. 'The East Window' cost £189. 9s. 6d. presumably paid to Ward and Nixon who made it, but just £2. 13s. for 'Putting up the Window'. Other expense was for encaustic tiles, brought by river from London, and £7. 7s. to 'Woollet for Iron Rails'. Clearly Phelps was keen to preserve the ancient stained glass, which he reinstated elsewhere in the church and his care for ensuring the best possible work was done is evident throughout the specification. At the same time there are several provisos entered where 'the contractor is to state in his tender what will be the difference of expense between these two kinds of facing' or other possible variants. None of the drawings mentioned in the document are currently known, but Hussey bequeathed 'most of his papers' to the Bodleian Library, so there is a chance that some will be found there. (The on-line catalogues do not seem to mention Hussey's papers, but I will enquire.) Fine examples of his draughtsmanship can be seen online within the images on the RIBA web-site (of which he was a vice president).

Photos of memorials

Now that much of the undergrowth has been cleared from the perimeter of All Saints churchyard, those memorials laid against the north wall have come into view. When I transcribed them in 1984 it was difficult to access the inscriptions through the brambles. Photographs are being taken of all the memorials in the churchyard and my transcriptions (published in SHS pamphlet 2) are being checked as far as possible. It is remarkable how quickly some script has deteriorated, so the task is quite urgent. Here are two images to show something of what is being lost.

The white stone above is 'In loving remembrance of Eliza Alice Ansley', but the rest is currently illegible (and was in 1984). Possibly more will be seen if light can be angled across it. Below is what remains of the memorial to William and Sophia Moore. The top has broken off since 1984 when I re-

corded the inscription: ‘In / loving remembrance of / William Moore / born April 10 1829 / died March 5 1883 / Also Sophia / the wife of the above / Born November 9th 1835 / Died April 14th 1885.

God of my life be near
On thee my hopes I cast
Guide me through the desert here
And bring me home at last

One new stone has come to light, a small one inscribed ’E. R. A. 1858’. This must be Edward Charles Antrum, son of Richard, publican at the Red Lion, who died aged 2. His name is also on his parents’ memorial. In due course pamphlet 2 will be revised to take account of any new findings and a CD of the photos will be deposited at the museum.

Papermakers in court

Something of the links between paper mills is seen in a court case reported in the *South-Eastern Gazette* involving two Snodland girls. In December 1863

Mary Hadlow, and Ann Lambeth, of Snodland, were charged … on Tuesday, with breaking into two rooms in a house in Footscray, and stealing a shawl and a dress, value 24s., the property of Frederick Watkins, and also a pair of boots, two petticoats, and an umbrella, the property of Sarah Carlow. It appeared that the prisoners were employed as rag pickers in Mr. Joynson’s paper mill, and they lodged in the house referred to. Early on the morning in question the prisoners left for their work, but instead of going to work they returned to the house, forcibly entered the room, and carried away the property; but the loss was not discovered until the return home of Watkins and Carlow in the evening. Information was then given to the police, and Errill, 255 R., traced them to Snodland, and with the assistance of Marsh, 97 K.C.C., apprehended them wearing the stolen property at the time. They were both committed for trial.

The next month

Mary Hadlow, 17, and Ann Lambeth, 17, pleaded guilty to housebreaking, and stealing a shawl, and other articles, the property of Sarah Carlow, at Footscray. Mr. Kays, for the prosecution, stated that the prisoners had broken into the house of the prosecutrix, and when inside, had cut a hole to get from one set of rooms to another. – Each one year’s hard labour.

After their punishment both married in Snodland: Mary to Richard Hunt on 8 July 1865 and Ann to John Eversfield, a lime labourer, on 25 November following. Sadly Mary’s husband died of consumption aged 25 in 1870, and she remained a ‘paper mill worker’ when the 1871 census was made. The Eversfields moved to Wouldham.

Presumably the girls regularly walked between St Mary Cray and Snodland and it is interesting that they continued the strong links which William Joynson forged with Snodland, even though he had been at St Mary Cray since 1833. The memorials at All Saints include part of one ‘In memory of / WILLIAM son of / WILLIAM and ANN / CATHERINE JOYNSON / who departed this life / the 23rd of September 1827 / aged 5 weeks’

Snodland Historical Society Newsletter

Volume 17, Issue 1 www.snodlandhistory.org.uk December 2013

Contacts

Dr Andrew Ashbee (Chairman), 214, Malling Road, Snodland, Kent ME6 5EQ

e-mail: aa0060962@blueyonder.co.uk

Secretary (vacant)

Subscriptions

Subscriptions for the new season are due from 1 September 2013 and should be paid before February 2014, otherwise membership will lapse. They should be sent to Mrs Brenda Ashbee, 214, Malling Road, Snodland, Kent ME6 5EQ or paid at one of the meetings. Single subscriptions are £7.50 and joint subscriptions £10.00 a year. (I guess it would be helpful if exact money can be tendered if possible!)

Society Meetings 2013-14

At the Devonshire Rooms, Waghorn Road, Snodland, Wednesdays at 8 pm. Free to members. Visitors £1 per meeting.

February 5th 2014. Richard Filmer: Hops and Hopping

March 5th 2014. Wilf Lower: Lost Empires - the Last Days of Music Hall & Variety

April 2nd 2014. Bob Ratcliffe: A tram ride through the Medway towns

May 7th 2014. David Carder: Hospitals and Almshouses. A look as these venerable institutions, including some local examples.

Other meetings

February 2014 [date to be fixed]. Larkfield Library: Larkfield and its Hundred. Andrew Ashbee

September 2014 [date to be fixed]. Snodland Library (a Monday, p.m.) Andrew Ashbee: Snodland and the First World War

Acquisitions

The Museum has been given the records of the Public Baths in Queen's Avenue which were kept by the caretaker. They comprise the weekly returns of numbers of hot and cold baths, payment for use of towels and for soap and are largely complete from the opening in 1900 to closure in May 1976. There is also a fine door-knob from one of the cubicles.

Don Fielder has kindly donated a fireman's helmet, axe and whistle which belonged to his father Harry, who was a volunteer fireman at Snodland from 1924 to closure of the station in 1948. He has also compiled a file about Harry, who also served at one time as projectionist and electrician at the 'Cinema Theatre, Snodland' in Holborough Road, and then as a pipe-fitter at the Mid Kent Water

Company and finally at Townsend Hook. As a boy Harry kept a diary and Don included his remarks on local World War I activities in 1918: 'Monday September 2nd: [on the hills] … I saw the Home Defence Rifle Range, it is at the bottom of the hill. I saw an aeroplane come down, and it ran along the ground and it stopped when it got by the side of the hedge. There is a little door for every Home Defence man to go in. When the red flag is flying it is dangerous for anybody to go pass [past]. I saw eleven German prisoners coming out of the clay pit with one guard at the back of them. I went about half past ten, and got home about half past five. When I got home I was tired.'

1924: Harry aged 15 (on left) with Len Masters, at the rear of the fire station (now the museum)

Some members remember with warmth the visits of Captain Carter and members of his crew to St Katherine's School in 1950-1956. His ship(s) were associated with the school as part of a national scheme, but particularly because the headmistress Miss Marriot, was a friend of the Captain and his wife. Don's late brother Mick had custody of the letters written from the *Fultala* and other vessels and they have been offered to St Katherine's school. I have spoken to Mr Cadwallader about them and our original plan was for them to go to the school for a time and then they would come to the museum. Having seen them I am sure they will be of enormous interest to the school and I feel that they probably ought to stay there because of their great interest. We will look into getting copies made. I have listed the files (which also contain photos, maps and drawings):

File 1: 31 January – 13 May 1950: India; Mauritius
File 2: 3 April – 19 October 1950: Australia
File 3: 8 June 1949 – 15 January 1951: India; Mauritius; Australia
File 4: December 1950: Mainly Ceylon
File 5: February – May 1951: Voyage to Persian Gulf; voyage to Japan
File 6: June 1951: Malaya
File 7: July 1951: Burma
File 8: October 1951: Burma to Ceylon; teak mill
File 9: December 1951: Muscat: visit to a bazaar
File [10]: May – August 1952: About the s.s.Olinda
File [11]: s.s.Carpentaria; Australia (many photos)
File [12]: December 1952: Visit to Japanese school
File [13] and [14]: 1955: Ships' cargoes (some duplicates)
File [15]: 1956: m.v. Chantala: Melbourne to Las Palmas

Ray Amis has donated a short video (4 minutes 20 seconds) which he made of Snodland in 1972. This will be shown at the December 2013 meeting. We have also received copies of two other videos about the Medway. The first was made in the 1930s and traces the river from its source to the sea. It is particularly interesting to see the local factories and an opportunity will be found to show it at a meeting sometime.

Ted Connell of the Kent Archaeological Society has brought five more boxes of material from the Roman Villa which had been kept in the KAS store. I have sent him the cemetery register to add to the KAS list of memorials in their web-site.

Jerry Hayes has alerted us to the presence of a war memorial at the Working Men's Club. Details and a photograph will be acquired.

Registers

Val Brown has made an electronic copy of all the Snodland parish (All Saints) registers from 1559 to the 20th century: baptisms to 2 September 1917; marriages to 5 March 1919; burials to 1963 (after 1896 only a few were at All Saints because the Cemetery had been created). This is a tremendous boon (273 pages in all) and enables the registers to be searched easily for names and details. She has also made a chronological list of the burials at the Cemetery to 1956. I thank her most warmly for all this work. A copy is available on a computer at the museum. Christ Church registers are in hand and Pam Doolin is currently transcribing Burham baptisms 1813-1882.

A mystery burial

On November 29 1879 the Rector buried Charles Spackman Barker, aged 74, from 'Maidstone, late of Paris' and added in the margin 'chevalier de legion d'hon [n]eur'. The mystery is why he was buried in Snodland. No family connection is known. Rev. Bingley clearly had details of his life from someone, presumably his second wife, a Mademoiselle Schmeltz, whom he had married following the death of his first wife Emma in Paris on 31 May 1866. The notice of his death in the *London Standard* says that he died in Maidstone on 26 November. Barker is an extremely important figure in the development of the organ. *Grove's Dictionary of Music and Musicians* says he was born in Bath on 10 October 1804, the son of Joseph, one of a family of well-known artists there. Joseph died in 1809 and Charles was brought up by his uncle Thomas who educated him for the medical profession. Around 1832-3 Charles took up organ building 'under Mr. Bishop of London' and invented and patented a pneumatic lever 'for the better manipulation of the instrument' as the *Bath Chronicle* has it. In the earlier nineteenth century the largest organs had become very difficult to play because of the limitations imposed by mechanical action and experiments were made to find ways of lightening the touch. Barker's invention was not taken up in England, perhaps because it was not yet fully developed, but he emigrated to France in 1837 where it was taken up by Aristide Cavaillé-Col and it was installed in the new Organ of the Abbey of St Denis in 1841. 'The St Denis organ became celebrated overnight, and was probably the most highly praised new organ in Europe. Its fame spread to England, and with it the possibility of the pneumatic lever to lighten the touch of large instruments' (Stephen Bicknell). Cavaillé-Col is reckoned one of the supreme organ builders in the history of the instrument and all his largest organs used the 'Barker-lever'. At the Great Exhibition of 1851 an organ by Ducroquet of Paris (built under the watchful eye of Barker, then the manager) was admired for the quality of its workmanship and many tonal innovations. It was at the Paris exhibition of 1855 that *Grove* (in 1878) says that Barker received a first-class medal and the Cross of the Legion of Honour. I have been unable to find his name in published lists of the Legion d'Honneur, but that does not necessarily mean that he had not received the distinction. In the 1860s Barker was in the forefront of developing his action using electricity, but this was later superseded by other developments in the field. One problem with pneumatic actions is that they do not allow the subtlety of touch available with the direct links of mechanical actions. The Franco-Prussian War of 1870 caused Barker to return to England. He spent some time in Eire, but his instruments for the Catholic cathedrals in Dublin and Cork proved unsatisfactory. In its obituary of him *The Musical World* wrote that 'about three years ago a committee of the principal organists and builders was formed for the purpose of raising a fund to provide an annuity for Mr Barker in his declining years, and a considerable sum was subscribed, bearing testimony to the value of his invention and the respect in which he was held.' Evidently this was not sufficient to allow a gravestone to be erected in the churchyard, so the whereabouts of his grave is unknown. The latest edition of *Grove's Dictionary* simply says that he died

'in reduced circumstances.' At least *The Musical World* of 13 December 1879 mentions Snodland as the place of his burial, the only source I have found which does so.

The early years of the British Schools

At the beginning of the nineteenth century schools were set up as 'National' (Church of England) or 'British' (Non-conformist). Some kind of education for '8 males and 12 females, whose instruction is at the expense of their parents' was reported to the House of Commons in a survey of 1833. This was independent of the National Schools, but whether just private or non-conformist is unknown. In 1894 Woolmer states that the Nonconformists started a small school in the vestry of the Congregational Chapel, under the charge of Miss George. William Joynson funded a proper school building which was opened in January 1858 in Holborough Road. The system of education would be based on the Bible, would be entirely unsectarian, and the religious opinions of the parents would not be questioned.

No records of the school survive before 1873, but we can make some educated assumptions about who the teachers were from *The Church Book of the Independents*. Stephen William Dadson, a preacher of the Chatham Itinerant Society, had been pastor at Snodland since 1856. It is possible, even probable, that Dadson lived in Snodland and taught at the British Schools between 1856 and 1861, but no confirmation of this has been found. He is listed as a British Schoolmaster, living in Best Street, Chatham, in the 1861 census.

Another master was Alexander Gunning, mentioned twice in the *Church Book* with a note appended 'To Jamaica on Baptist Mission'. Sadly he died there of a fever after just 15 months, but his obituary in the *Baptist Magazine* mentions Snodland:

> He chose the calling of a schoolmaster, and completed his studies at the Normal School at Homerton. … One leaving Homerton he became the master of a school at Snodland, near Rochester, where he won the esteem of his employers as a Christian and Christian teacher. Here he also married a lady engaged in a similar occupation. His school was flourishing, and he was useful. [He then offered himself to teach abroad.] At this juncture the Committee were looking out for a tutor to take charge of the Normal School department in the Calabar Institution, Jamaica. His offer was accepted, and in the month of February, 1861, he and Mrs Gunning sailed for their destination. They arrived in April, and Mr Gunning immediately entered on his work with zeal and earnestness.

The fever began about a week before he died on 27 July 1862; he was buried 'in the little cemetery behind the Institution'. [Google Earth indicates it is still there behind the church, in Kingston, Jamaica.] Gunning had married Mary Snowden in York (her home town, and where she died on 10 September 1874). Her unmarried name appears under his in *The Church Book of the Independents* confirming she taught in Snodland too.

It is likely that the replacements for Gunning and his wife were William and Letitia Francis, who in the 1861 census were living at Constitution Hill. Both were born in Essex, but after marriage settled in Geldestone, Norfolk for some years, where three children were born to them. A fourth, Annie, was born c.1859 in Sherston, Wiltshire and a fifth in Snodland c.1869. By 1871 the family was living at the British Schools, but clouds were on the horizon as Woolmer records:

> For a lengthened period the working of the Schools appears to have been unsatisfactory, and ultimately a disagreement arose with some of the persons concerned, which led Mr. Joynson to have the school materials put up for sale in one lot, to be cleared away in a short time; and the house and ground in another lot. The school materials were bought by the late Mr. Charles Townsend Hook, who asked several of the leading Nonconformists what was best to be done about the school-house and ground, which had been bought by Mr. Collier of Greenhithe. In the end, the two gentlemen arranged matters, Mr. Hook purchasing the house and ground from Mr. Collier, who gave a donation for the benefit of the Schools.

The Francis family moved to Yorkshire around June 1872. It would appear that 'the school materials' were not a heap of bricks, but remained as a building. Hook evidently bought the school in the spring of 1872 and his *Journal* details further expenditure on it until his death. Mr Collyer was paid £121, but £617. 2s. seems to have been the whole purchase price. £90 paid to Thomas Bateman may have been Collyer's donation. There are numerous small payments to the builders Burgess and Langridge and the Evernden Brothers, but nothing showing major building works. Under the Hook family's direction the school prospered and records survive from 1873 to show its achievements and progress.

Snodland Historical Society Newsletter

Volume 17, Issue 2 www.snodlandhistory.org.uk April 2014

Contacts

Dr Andrew Ashbee (Chairman), 214, Malling Road, Snodland, Kent ME6 5EQ

e-mail: aa0060962@blueyonder.co.uk

Secretary: Mrs Ann Pinder, 17 Midsummer Road, Snodland, Kent ME6 5RP

Society Meetings 2013-14

At the Devonshire Rooms, Waghorn Road, Snodland, Wednesdays at 8 pm. Free to members. Visitors £1 per meeting.

May 7th 2014. David Carder: Hospitals and Almshouses. A look as these venerable institutions, including some local examples.

September 2014 [date to be fixed]. Snodland Library (a Monday, p.m.) Andrew Ashbee: Snodland and the First World War

Acquisitions

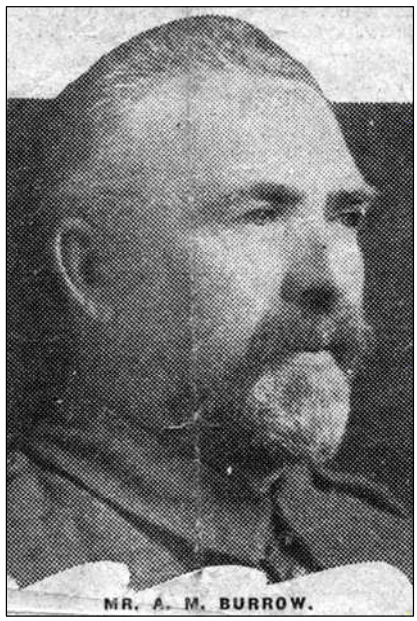
At the Medway Archives Open Day on 4 December, I was able to purchase a run of Halling Parish Magazines: January 1910 to December 1916.

An old soldier

Peter Rimmer has kindly passed on a newspaper cutting from the *Kent Messenger* of 3 July 1931 with a fascinating story from a former Snodland resident:

'The oldest guardsman in the Kent Branch of the Grenadier Guards Association, Mr. Alma Moss Burrow, of Snodland who remembers Florence Nightingale telling him she nursed his father when he was wounded in the Crimean War—and who, as a drummer boy played with the King and his sisters, told me the interesting story of his life when I saw him at his nursery at Snodland, where he manages a greengrocery business.

"I have always loved the Army" he explained, with a merry twinkle in his eyes, "and I joined the Grenadier Guards as a drummer boy when I was only nine years old. My brothers James and Cornelius, who were older than I, were in the same battalion, and their service, with my father's was 72 years with the Grenadiers.


MR. A. M. BURROW.

When King Edward was Prince of Wales, I remember parading at St James's Palace. The royal children used to watch us very often, and King George and his sisters would pick off our busby's for a lark. When we got them back we often found little bags of chocolates in them. Sometimes they used to tickle us with sticks, and Princess Maud, I recollect, was a mischievous tom-boy, and was up to all sorts of pranks.

I well remember, in psite of the fact that I am 70 next September, playing with the royal children in the gardens, and chatting with King Edward. I have had many a half sovereign from him.

We were out one day, about three of us, when

we saw the royal carriage coming, and we halted and saluted Queen Victoria. Her late Majesty stopped the carriage and asked our names. I spoke up, and said, 'Drummer Boy Alma Burrow, your Majesty'. She questioned me about my name and was pleased to hear about my father fighting at Alma."

Two years after leaving the Guards in 1882, Mr. Burrow joined the Maidstone Borough Police, and retired on pension in 1909. When the war broke out he joined the R.A.M.C. in February 1915 at the age of 54.

"I volunteered to go the France", he added, "but they would not let me go on account of my age and previous service, so I had to do my bit on this side of the channel."

He was unable to serve in the Egyptian War as he was in hospital with blood poisoning, but his brother Cornelius did, and was afterwards transferred to Australia, where he was engaged in drilling the cadets who formed the nucleus of the Australian Army. He stayed in the country after his Army service and died two years ago.

"Did you have any exciting experiences in the Police?", I asked.

"Oh, yes!" he said with a smile, "I have had many a 'rough house' and I am glad to say I never lost a prisoner. Once in Maidstone High Street I was stabbed in the back by a drunken American, but I swung round and put him right out with a blow on the jaw—and in those days I was supposed to be strong. Even now I can lift the half-cwt over my head.

When the Guards Memorial was unveiled, Mr. Burrow laid a wreath of flowers from his own garden. He is Hon. Secretary of the Snodland Branch, British Legion, and makes a hobby of his nurseries.

In two years time he will celebrate his golden wedding.'

A little research has added to the account. Thomas Burrow belonged to the 3rd battalion Grenadier Guards, who successfully fought the Russians at the battle of Alma on 20 September 1854. By the 1861 census he had retired from the Army and was living at Greenhithe, where he was a railway porter, but he is also listed as a Chelsea pensioner. The idea of naming children after the battle was common at the time. Alma was baptised at St Mary, Greenhithe, on 6 October 1861. He enlisted aged 9 years and 2 months at Wellington Barracks on 29 Nov 1870. Subsequent censuses show him as a private soldier there (1881), then a police constable at Maidstone (1891-1911), living at 56 Victoria Street. He married Annie Knowles Jefferys at All Saints, Snodland, on 10 April 1883; there were no children. Annie's parents then lived at 5 Hope Terrace in the High Street. His service records show that in July 1906 at Maidstone while handling a prisoner he was struck with periostitis (inflammation of tissue surrounding bone) which caused him to spend four months in bed. This was given as the reason for him to be 'no longer fit for military service' in 1916; he had served as sergeant in the R.A.M.C. from 15 Feb 1915 to 2 Aug 1916. Alma had moved to Snodland by 1928, when his name appears as Hon. Secretary of the British Legion, and he had a greengrocer's shop in Holborough Road. He died in 1938 (and his wife in 1947). Both are buried at the Cemetery.

World War I

Names and pictures continue to be added to the pamphlet of Snodland men who served in WWI. An extraordinary number of Snodland men served.

We have recently been given a typescript account (63 pages), written by Sidney T. Kemp in 1973, about his service with the 6th Battalion Royal West Kents. He was born in Halling and mentions Snodland and Halling men who joined up with him, including his friend Tom Harris, who was later awarded the VC. It is a remarkable account and can be found (free) on-line: Forces_War_Records: type S. T. Kemp into the search box. Here is an extract telling of his joining the army:

Up until I was about fifteen and a half my parents and Fred and I had lived at Halling, having attended Hooks School at Snodland and of course we knew other boys, and yet

not having seen any of them since 1906 we were suddenly to see Thomas Harris and the two others with him as well as some boys from Snodland. Why I mention Thomas Harris is that in 1918, after I had been invalided out of the army, Tom died winning the Victoria Cross saving an officer's life. I feel that Tom should be mentioned because he was always a fine chap. Well we were given a thorough medical examination. Fred insisted that he would pass the medical test. Well I was examined first and passed easily. Then it was Fred's turn, but he at sixteen or seventeen had had a bad illness of bronchitis and his chest wouldn't expand to fit the regiment's requirement. He was rejected by the doctor, when suddenly the doctor said to us, are you brothers? We said yes. Come back here he said to Fred and loosely put his tape round Fred's chest, and said you are OK. Behind us was a chap with bad eye-sight. He asked what letters on the board we had to say. I told him: he got in with that, was passed, but when it came to seeing down the sights of a rifle well he didn't know where to point the gun, so was discharged. Another thing – no-one was asked for a birth certificate, you said you were such and such an age and they believed you. Boys of fifteen were saying they were nineteen or twenty and old 'uns over forty were saying they were thirty, and there were many men and boy allowed to enlist who shouldn't have been there. When we went to France the following June there were several boys of fifteen to seventeen who went with us but they shouldn't have been allowed to go for it was a man's war and I found a signaller who was with me on a station who was seventeen: he just folded up when trouble came.

Well after the medical examination we were mustered, about twenty-four of us, into a room. A Magistrate, Mr. Haynes of Maidstone, was in attendance. He read all the details of which we were committing into and some of them were serious too. He gave us time to think it over, no-one backed out, so then he started the business of attesting us into the army. After this he congratulated us , telling us that we were soldiers of the King for three years or duration of the war. We went to the pay officer, receiving our day's pay of one shilling for that day and that was to be our pay, the single ones, for a long time to come. The married men were later given one shilling per week, the rest going to support their families and later on, when we got to Purfleet Rifle Range, the single chaps used to help the married ones pay their fares on the railway to go home to see their families .[The next day, after a trip home to settle affairs] we were mustered by Sergeant Pace, who was a veteran of the South African War which ended in 1902. … Where the country would have been I cannot imagine if these fine soldiers hadn't have come and made something of us, for we all, or almost all, were rookies. There were a few who were deserters from the navy and army, but these were promised free pardons if they re-enlisted. Now Sergeant Pace, who came from Bromley in Kent, lined us up according to our height. Tom Harris was bigger and taller than Fred or I, so it was the tall ones on the right and down to the small ones. There were several of us there to be numbered as they "the Army" had been wanting to get enough of us together to make up a Platoon of say forty to fifty men. When we lined up Fred stood on my right, Tom Haris further up. Tom's number was 358. Fred was 363 and I was 364. Sergeant Pace then said who is the elder of you two brothers. We said that I was, so Fred an I changed places and I became 363 and Fred 364, and so that remained as long as we served in the Royal West Kent Regiment.

So on August 28th we were soldiers in uniform. We were drilled a bit in formation. The drills were the same that I had been doing at School at Snodland before I left school in 1905. [Training at Purfleet followed]. Now Fred and I and Tom Harris, Bill Russell and Len Mayatt who I knew as boys and Bert Harris who I went to school with at Hooks school Snodland, were part of 8 Platoon, B Coy; each Company had four platoons when at full strength and were fifty men or so.

Holmesdale records

The school has kindly placed on loan to the Museum these admission registers and log books.

Admission registers:
19-05-1930 to 19-08-1940
07-10-1940 to 24-09-1952
22-09-1952 to 13-09-1961
13-09-1961 to 09-09-1965
09-09-1965 to 08-09-1970
08-09-1970 to 23-10-1978
06-09-1978 to 07-09-1982
07-09-1982 to 09-09-1986
09-09-1986 to 15-05-2000

Log Books:
19-05-1930 to 21-12-1945
07-01-1946 to 24-07-1970
08-09-1970 to 03-02-1985

Frank Oliver

Mr Oliver was a teacher at Snodland Central School from 1930 (when it opened) until his retirement in 1949. We have been in touch with his grandson, who kindly sent the following newspaper account from 1949:

A teacher of handicrafts at Snodland Secondary School for nearly 20 years, Mr. Frank Oliver, 49 Holtye Crescent, Maidstone, retired on Friday.

A pleasing ceremony took place at the school when Mr. Oliver was presented with a cheque and a barometer by Mr. R. Gower, chairman of the governors, before an audience of 600. They were gifts from members of the staff and pupils, past and present.

Mrs. Oliver was the recipient of a bouquet of carnations, which she accepted from one of the senior girls.

Mr. C. S. Spawls, B.Sc., the principal, and Mr. F. Plowright, a former headmaster, paid glowing tribute to Mr. Oliver's work in school and to his interest in numerous outside activities.

Mr. Oliver thanked his principals and colleagues for their invaluable help, mentioning especially Miss Barnett, Mr. N. M. Lewis and Mr. Goldsborough.

"For every hour I have spent at school, I have had 60 minutes of enjoyment," he said.

Mr. Oliver has watched his school increase in status from a central school to a county modern school and finally a county secondary school.

Trained at Kent Summer Schools, Mr. Oliver took up his first appointment as manual training teacher at Sutton Valence School.

Between 1917 and 1925 he held the position of peripatetic handicraft teacher for the Kent Education Committee, teaching at Harrietsham, Sutton Valence, Loose and Maidstone junior technical schools.

For five years before his appointment to Snodland School, Mr. Oliver taught at Snodland handicraft centre [Waghorn Road].

In 1945, a special honour was conferred upon him. He was given a post of special responsibility at Snodland county secondary school.

Keenly interested in all forms of athletics, Mr. Oliver was chairman of the Kent Schools Athletic Association from 1938-1946.

He is frequently called upon to time-keep for the Kent County Amateur Athletic Association, of which he is a prominent member, and this year acted in that capacity for the Oxford and Cambridge Athletic championships at the White City.

Secretary of the Maidstone Harriers, he contributes regular reports of their activities to the Kent Messenger.

Mr. Oliver is also a member of the College and Institute of Handicraft Teachers, and the Royal Society of Teachers.

He has held the office of churchwarden at St. Phillip's Church, Maidstone, for the past 12 months and is one of the trustees of the Collis Memorial Playing Field.

During the last war, he served in the Home Guard and was a Flying Officer in the Snodland Squadron Air Training Corps.

Perhaps one of his most memorable feats, and one for which many have since been grateful, was the reformation of Chart Sutton Cricket Club in 1920.

This venture, in which the late Mr. C.H. B. Marsham was another partner, re-established the club as foremost among Kent villages.

Snodland Historical Society Newsletter

Volume 17, Issue 3 www.snodlandhistory.org.uk September 2014

Contacts

Dr Andrew Ashbee (Chairman), 214, Malling Road, Snodland, Kent ME6 5EQ

e-mail: aa0060962@blueyonder.co.uk

Secretary: Mrs Ann Pinder, 17 Midsummer Road, Snodland, Kent ME6 5RP

Society Meetings 2014-15

At the Devonshire Rooms, Waghorn Road, Snodland, Wednesdays at 8 pm. Free to members. Visitors £1 per meeting.

October 2014. AGM. After the business meeting Andrew Ashbee will repeat the talk he gave in the Library: 'Snodland and the Great War'.

5 November 2014. Bob Ratcliffe: A tram ride through the Medway Towns [Rainham to Strood and deviations in between]

December 2014. The usual Christmas meeting featuring newly acquired pictures of Snodland.

4 February 2015. Richard Filmer: Bricks and Brickwork—an illustrated history. Richard has kindly provided a synopsis: 'The brick is one of our most overlooked, yet most enduring building materials, especially in the south east. Tracing the remarkable story of the brick, the presentation should be of interest to all those who have as awareness of period and traditional building construction, and who wish to know more about brick styles, techniques and skills used in our local buildings, where some of our brickwork is unsurpassed.'

4 March 2015. Wilf Lower: 'Behind the scenes of television's golden years.' 'Who could forget Morecambe & Wise, the Two Ronnies, Terry & June, Till Death Do Us Part and the Good Life? Dramas like the Forsyte Saga, Pennies from Heaven and When the Boat Comes in; music from Top of the Pops to the Last Night of the Proms; and the pageantry of the Silver Jubilee and the Royal Wedding. These were truly part of television's 'Golden Years', but how these and many other great programmes were made, the situations and 'characters' involved. Was often astounding and hilarious. Never has '*you wouldn't believe it*' been more appropriate!'

1 April 2015. David Carder, this year on 'Pilgrimage'

6 May 2015. To be arranged. We hope to book a speaker on the subject of the Thames and Medway Canal.

World War I

Many of you will have seen the exhibition in the Library during August and early September. Smaller ones were presented at All Saints and at Christ Church on Sunday 3rd August, when a moving Service of Light was held at All Saints at which names of all the Snodland men who were killed were read out. Another exhibition is being prepared around Remembrance Sunday and will be at Christ Church between 6th and 11th November. It is hoped that local schoolchildren will be able to come and see it.

Sue Brooks and I have been very grateful for items loaned for showing—not always concerning Snodland men, but providing vivid memories of those involved in the fighting.

Names and pictures continue to be added to the pamphlet of Snodland men who served in WWI, which now has over 660 names. The

Kent Messenger at the time reckoned that Snodland had nearly 1000 serving men out of a population of 5000. The booklet has been swelled by information gleaned from the digital version of the *Kent Messenger*, available online from June 2014. A small subscription is required to access the years 1914-1918. I have downloaded many pages mentioning Snodland men, which are available to view at the Museum. We will have a rolling programme from 2014 to 2018 exhibiting Snodland's part in the war. Some relatives supplied photographs to the *Kent Messenger*, to which were often added quotations from the letters which officers were obliged to write to families explaining how a man died; others were extracts from letters written by the men themselves describing their part in various actions.

Cataloguing of war memorials and research into the men named on them is currently a nationwide activity and I have been in touch with several people where Snodland becomes part of the enquiry. Recently (4 August) the Michael de Caville Index of over 4000 names of casualties from the Medway Towns was launched by the Friends of Medway Archives. It can be freely searched by anyone at www.foma-lsc.org . This index includes several men on our Snodland cenotaph, because they also appear on the Halling memorial. Questions sometimes arise through these duplications. Ralph Startup lived at Ham Hill (as did his widow), but he is not on the Birling or Ham Hill (=Christ Church) memorials. He is on the one at West Malling (because he was born there and his wider family remained there), but he also appears in the Halling list. Why?

The Paper Mill

It was good to prepare a small exhibition on the history of the mill which attracted considerable interest at the Fun Day on 29 August and enabled me to show some items not normally on view. This was in the same tent as the mill's own portrayal of the new machine currently being built, so old and new were shown together.

As the mill looks to the future I understand that the Townsend Hook name will be dropped. As part of this move we have received a rich collection of documents, mostly concerning property, which add significantly to our knowledge of the history of the houses around the mill:

General

1972 File recording rates and rentals of properties, names of tenants and details of rooms etc.:
Abingdon House, West Malling (4)
Birling Road (1); Bramley Road (7); Brook Street (18); Church Fields (5); East Street (21); High Street/Waghorn Road (16); Holborough Road (4); King Street, West Malling

1972 Similar file to above:
Malling Road (3); Mairs Nest, West Malling (6); May Street (50); Mill Lane (6); Mill Street and environs (12); Waghorn Road (19 – including garages)

Bramley Road

Undated 45 and 47 Bramley Road (formerly 1 & 2 Parkestone Terrace) and land at rear of 55 Bramley Road (6 Parkestone Terrace): land searches

Church Fields

1936/1950 Bundle of documents relating to 1-5 Church Fields, ex. Norman family to C.T.Hook & Co., Ltd.

High Street, Church Terrace

Abstract of title of piece of land [Church Terrace] from T.W.Peters to Alfred Capon, 25 Sep 1883, for £90; Conveyance of the same

1883 Mortgage of same: Alfred Capon to Wm. Henry Bell, 21 Nov 1883 [2 copies]

1884 Conveyance of same: Alfred Capon to Miss Mildred Gowar, 26 Mar 1884

1885 Conveyance of 2 cottages in Church Terrace from Mildred Gowar to Wm.Henry Bell

1889 Further £100 mortgage from Arthur Joslen to Thomas William Peters on nos. 1-4 Church Terrace, Snodland: 7 Feb 1889

1890 Re-conveyance of same: Wm. H. Bell to Mrs Mildred Homewood [formerly Gowar], 26 Sep 1890

1897 Conveyance of 1-4, and 7-8 Church Terrace: T.W.Peters and two mortgagee to A.M.Flint: 27 May 1897

1911 15 Aug 1911: 1-4 Church Terrace from Maurice William Frye and Frederick George Stenning of Maidstone (executors of will of Abraham Marsh Flint of Larkfield, coal merchant, to Miss Edith Caroline Haymen of Gordon House, Rochester for £500

1911 Sale of properties in Maidstone, Snodland, Ditton and Aylesford by W.Day & Sons: 27-07-1911; Lots 4-6 are 1 & 2 and 3 & 4 and 7 & 8 Church Terrace, Snodland; tenants: Burlock, Monk, Gash. Peters, Holden and Hazell

1933 Abstract of title of 5 & 6 Church Terrace of representatives of Charles L. Knell, deceased, 1933

1947 Will of E.C.Haymen: 16-2-1945; died 11-7-1946; proved 21-9-1946: executors: sister Catherine Louisa Haymen and nephews William Sherwin Knight, Cyril Sherwin Knight and Gordon Harry Gill

May Street

1997 citing earlier documents. Land Registry register concerning property in May Street (formerly Carisbrooke House, etc)

May Street, Mill Street, East Street, Brook Street

1887,1908 May Street, Mill Street, East Street and elsewhere
Lease of 53 houses for 21 years from 29-09-1887: The Misses Hook (Edith, Maude, Agnes) to C. Townsend Hook & Co, Ltd.
Renewed 16-11-1908 by Maude Midsummer Hook
Schedule shows tenants and addresses

Mill Street: Court Lodge

CL01
1874 Abstract of title of William Henry Poynder, 1874, to the Manor of Veles [= former Court Lodge and 22+ acres]

CL02
1874 Conveyance from W.H.Poynder to T.W.Peters of [Court Lodge], 20 Nov 1874 £520 occ. William Peters or his undertenants [**the house and 1 r 5 p = yard and out buildings only]**

Schedule: (a) 21-11-1821 (1) James Martin (2) Edward Martin, (3) Nathaniel and Ann Beckford, (4) T. Poynder and W. Hobson and T. Poynder the younger, (5) William Wix, (6) Thomas Knight

(b) fine: Michs. 2 Geo. IV: Thomas Knight (pl) Nathaniel and Ann Beckford (df)

(c) 21–11-1821: (1) James Mair (2) Elizabeth Mair, widow, Samuel Hayward the younger, George Palmer, (3) James Martin, (4) T. Poynder and W. Hobson and T. Poynder the younger, (5) William Wix, (6) George Hobson (7) William Blackburn

(d) 16-17 Dec 1840: Lease and release between (1) William Hobson, Joshua Hobson, George Rougement, Rev. George Hobson Thompson; (2) Thomas Poynder the younger

(e) 27 Nov 1849: indenture (endorsed on (d)) between (1) Thomas Poynder the younger; (2) Edward Medlicott; (3) William Henry Poynder; (4) Rev. Samuel Wix; (5) Thomas Henry Allan Poynder

CL03 1883 Abstract of title of Thomas William Peters to [Court Lodge as above], 1883; purchased on 20 Nov 1874 for £520

1883 Abstract of title of Thomas William Peters to [Court Lodge as above], 1883; purchased on 20 Nov 1874 for £520

1892 28 Oct 1892. Declaration by Harriet Burgess and Indenture concerning 3 cottages in Mill Row, Snodland

1898 Abstract of title of Nathan Peters of 3 Hope Terrace and his mortgagee
Contract for sale £191. 10. 0. [for Court Lodge] **[CP01]**

1893 Mortgage of **10 March 1893** between Nathan Peters and Lt Col. Holland for loan of £150 and further sum not exceeding £400; conveyance of **13 Feb 1883** from T.W.Peters to N.Peters: land abutting TWP (rear), High Road (front), the Misses Hook and road to wharf [W] 2 cottages in course of erection. Further sums of £100 (17-04-1883) and £150 (8-6-1883) advanced to NP **[CP02]**

1885 **24 July 1885**: further charge of £200 NP and Col. Holland; NP had lately erected a fourth tenement **[CP03]**

1898 Supplemental Abstract of Title to mortgage of £500 of 24 July 1885 of **30 Dec 1898** between Col. Trevenan James Holland and Nathan Peters
[**CP04]**

1899 27 Jan 1899: conveyance of 1 Church Place from NP to Alfred Edward Weaver **[CP05]**

1899 **3 Feb 1899**: mortgage between AEW and Starr-Bowkett Building Society: £520 **[CP06]**

1907 **11 June 1907**. Mortgage all paid conveyed to AEW **[CP07]**

1907 **14 October 1907**. Conveyance from AEW to E.H.Haymen and H Sherwin Knight of 1-3 Church Place **[CP08]**

1906 14-11-1906 between Sarah Elizabeth Hicks and Ebenezer David Silver for £481. 10s. for 6 messuages in Mill Row and 5 called Railway Terrace **xxx**

1918 Declaration by George Tomlin that 1-4 Mill Row Cottages are to be sold by Edith Caroline Haymen to C. Townsend Hook 7 Co. Ltd.

Mill Street: Paper Mill

.1847 Paper Mill: extract from conveyance 4 Feb 1847: Charles Drawbridge and others to Henry Atkinson Wildes [and map]

1847 Conveyance of land from Drawbridge to Wm Kingsnorth, 17 Feb 1847

1862 Paper Mill: extract from conveyance 18

Oct 1862: Henry Atkinson Wildes to C,T,Hook

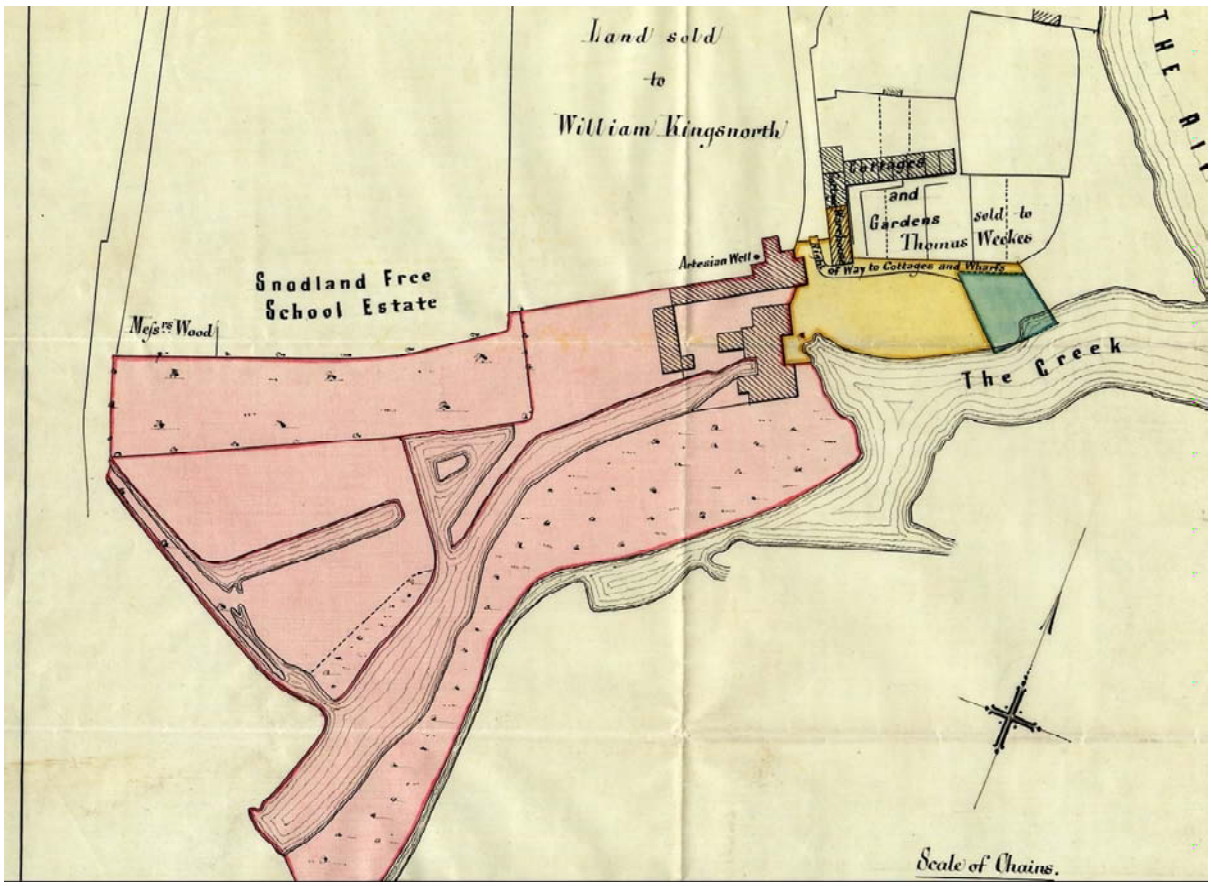
1883 Will of William Kingsnorth 20 March 1876; proved 1-12-1883
Trustees: wife Sarah (nee Antrum); Edward James Antrum of Loose, miller, (nephew); Henrietta Antrum (niece), dau. of wife's sister Susan Brown
To wife: house I live and and 15 cottages; then cottage (William Bristow) to Mabel, dau of Thomas Burgess; cottage (James West) to Verona Burgess; cottage (John Williams) to Harold Burgess; cottage (William Waterman) to Ethelbert Burgess.
Six cottages occ. William Penny, Henry Beadle, James Wenham, George Chittenden, Walter Hemms [Imms], William Wooding to my niece Sarah Elizabeth Brown, dau of Susan Brown **[==11-16 Mill Row]**
Five newly-built cottages occ. Thomas Burgess, Thomas Burton, George Atkins, John Mills, John Boorman to niece Harriet Susanna, dau of Susan Brown **[= 1-5 Church Place]**
Wife to pay to my sister Rebecca, wife of George Mills, 10s weekly
After death of wife: House I now live in to Henrietta Antrum and the four cottages adjoining thereto: Thomas Blunt, Philip Masters, William Dartnall, George Ruck **[=17-21 Railway Place]**

Estate valued at £597. 14. 11.
The widow died 21-6-1884
Henrietta Antrum married William James Glover of Snodland, butcher

Delamere and Waghorn Road

1950 H & R.L.Cobb: Sale catalogue 5-10-1950 for Delamere and Rosemary (Waghorn Road) and bundle of documents relating to part of the associated land of various dates

..
1963 Agreement between A. M. Ashbee and C.T. Hook & Co. Ltd.: rent of two Rectory Glebe meadows, from 26-10-1963



This map shows the paper mill (pink) in 1847, when it was purchased by Henry Wildes. Brook Street is on the left. The school field was sold in 1867 to fund the new buildings. (Green) shows the coal wharf. Thomas Weekes was a cement maker at Burham at this time. William Kingsnorth had retired from being the publican at the Red Lion and built houses on his field. He also received money when the railway passed through it.

Snodland Historical Society Newsletter

Volume 18, Issue 1 www.snodlandhistory.org.uk December 2014

Contacts

Dr Andrew Ashbee (Chairman), 214, Malling Road, Snodland, Kent ME6 5EQ

e-mail: aa0060962@blueyonder.co.uk

Secretary: Mrs Ann Pinder, 17 Midsummer Road, Snodland, Kent ME6 5RP

Subscriptions.

I forgot to put the usual notice about subscriptions in the September 2014 Newsletter, for which apologies.

Subscriptions for the new season are due from 1 September 2014 and should be paid before February 2015, otherwise membership will lapse. They should be sent to Mrs Brenda Ashbee, 214, Malling Road, Snodland, Kent ME6 5EQ or paid at one of the meetings. Single subscriptions are £7.50 and joint subscriptions £10.00 a year. (I guess it would be helpful if exact money can be tendered if possible!)

Society Meetings 2015

4 February 2015. Richard Filmer: Bricks and Brickwork—an illustrated history. Richard has kindly provided a synopsis: 'The brick is one of our most overlooked, yet most enduring building materials, especially in the south east. Tracing the remarkable story of the brick, the presentation should be of interest to all those who have as awareness of period and traditional building construction, and who wish to know more about brick styles, techniques and skills used in our local buildings, where some of our brickwork is unsurpassed.'

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6 May 2015. To be arranged. We hope to book a speaker on the subject of the Thames and Medway Canal.

World War I

Sue Brooks and I have been very grateful for items loaned and donated for showing at the recent exhibition—mostly from relatives of former or present Snodland residents. We have been given one or two photographs and other documents and a collection of about 20 postcards sent from England to the front.

Postcards

For a long time there seem to have been few new or unknown postcards of Snodland and district appearing on e-bay and the like. But we were recently loaned a collection of around 80 cards with about a dozen images previously unseen, and others with variant forms of caption to add to our catalogue. The opportunity was also taken to record the dates of postage. These were shown at the December meeting, but for members in distant venues they have been added to the Snodland section of www.kentphotoarchive.org.uk

Holme School Log-Book.

Rev. Edward Holme was Vicar of Birling from 1756 until his death in 1782. In 1774 he opened a school on the Birling-Leybourne boundary (as well as funding others at East Malling and Soutborough) and this continued under a Trust until Snodland Central School opened in 1930, when pupils transferred there. Holme's school was for boys aged 10 or more and Margaret Collins gives an account of it in *Birling—A Backward Glance* pp. 83-85 and 137.

Recently a log-book from the school was advertised for auction on e-bay starting at £49.99 and I bid successfully for it at that price. Entries are made by the master, John Charles Thompson, who was already at the school in 1901 (aged 27) and who continued as master until it closed. Margaret Collins records 'Knocker' Thompson as 'remembered kindly by most of his ex-pupils as a strict but very fair man.' The entries run from 22 Feb 1906 to

H[enry] G[eorge]. Chatfield is named as the Attendance Officer throughout. Born in Maresfield, Sussex, he had been a watchmaker at 6 High Street, Snodland, until sometime after 1901, after which he was employed by the KCC. (We have a clock inscribed with his name at the Museum.) He lived on the London Road at Ryarsh and was Chairman of Ryarsh Parish Council Here are some other entries:

3-4-1906: From this afternoon, Cottage Gardening will be taken every Tuesday afternoon from 3-15 to 4-15, by 12 boys from the First Class. Forks, rakes and hoes supplied by Apps Bros.

11-4-1906: Admitted George Boorman, who is nearly eleven years of age. He is very backward indeed.

7-5-1906: Diocesan Inspector's report: I was struck with the senior class in this school. The lads' answers were always ready, thoughtful, and well expressed. Definite Church teaching ably given has been thoroughly comprehended and would seem to have appealed to heart and head. Good work is being done with the juniors. The writing was well done – and the behaviour of the whole school was blameless. *(All the Inspection Reports are glowing.)*

29-5-1906. A Half-holiday was given this afternoon in consideration of Empire Day, about which a lesson was given to the whole school by the master in the morning from 11-30 to 12. *(The succession of outings shown below shows that community events gave the pupils some opportunities for recreation.)*

29-6-1906. Owing to the very wet morning only about half the boys are present. *(A common type of entry reminding us that lack of footwear and of the prospect of sitting in soaking clothes after a considerable walk caused regular problems in attendance. At least one Ham Hill father was taken to court because his children did not attend a Leybourne school when it rained.)*

3-7-1906: The Annual Distribution of prizes took place this afternoon, 13 prizes were given for Secular Work, 12 for Religious Knowledge, and 4 for Gardening.10 Certificates for Regular Attendance and Good Conduct, and three medals for perfect attendance given by the Kent Education Committee, were also distributed by Mrs Luck.

19-7-1906: The Attendance is rather poor this morning, only 81 per cent of the boys being present. This is probably owing to the rain.

24-7-1906: The afternoon meeting commenced at 1.30 and closed at 3.45, to enable the Leybourne boys to attend their Sunday School Treat.

26-7-1906: The school was closed today to enable the master to accompany the Leybourne Church Choir on their annual outing.

31-7-1906: The last of the lessons was given this afternoon to the Cottage Gardening Class. This makes 20 hours of instruction in this subject and so qualifies for a grant at the rate of 2/- per head.

3-8-1906: The school was closed this morning until Tuesday morning – a half holiday being given for Ryarsh Sunday School Treat, and a day's holiday on Monday for Bank Holiday.

8-8-1906: The attendance is only fair this afternoon. Birling Flower Show is held this afternoon and this no doubt accounts for the attendances being only fair.

14-8-1906: The Birling boys belonging to the Band of Hope have gone for their excursion today. This has affected attendance at the school, nine boys being absent from this cause.

1-10-1906: The Pupil Teacher [Gordon Rabjohn] is attending Maidstone Grammar School.

18-10-1906: Miss Burgess has given notice to the Managers that she intends to resign her position in this school on December 31st of this year.

6-11-1906: Miss Burgess, the Supplementary Teacher, has been called away from school this morning by an urgent telegram. Miss Burgess is absent this afternoon.

7-11-1906: Miss Burgess is again absent this morning and I have heard nothing of her since she left school yesterday morning. Received a note from Miss Burgess this afternoon saying

that she has been called away unexpectedly – she says nothing about returning. *(No telephones!)*
9-11-1906: Miss Burgess has notified her intention of not returning to her duties at the school, to Canon Hawley
26-11-1906: Miss Kathleen Bishop, the newly appointed Supplementary Teacher, commenced her duties this morning.
28-11-1906: Miss Bishop is absent from school this morning in consequence of illness.
3-12-1906: The Rev Canon Hawley produced a doctor's certificate stating that Miss Bishop was unable to resume her duties at the school.
21-1-1907: Miss Elsie Sparks, a Supplementary Teacher, is at work in this school this morning. She has charge of the Junior Division Sts I-III.
14-3-1907: Miss Sparks ... has been successful in passing Part I of the preliminary Certificate Examination held in December of last year.
8-4-1907: Miss Sparks ... is sitting for Part II of the Preliminary Certificate Examination. Gordon Rabjohn, the Pupil Teacher, is at school. He has finished at Maidstone Grammar School and he will spend his time here from now until July 31 of this year – the date on which his apprenticeship terminates.
15-4-1907: Miss Sparks ... returned to her duties this morning. Received notice that the Kent Education Committee consent to her appointment to this school.
12-7-1907: The Ryarsh Choir are having their annual outing today. This makes the attendance bad.
22-7-1907: Gordon Rabjohn ... was at Maidstone last week, sitting for the Cambridge Senior Examination. Miss Sparks ... is absent from school. Reason not known. Gordon Rabjohn is in charge of Standards I-III.
23-7-1907: Miss Sparks is present this morning. Her absence yesterday was due to a bicycle accident.
31-8-1907: The school was closed this afternoon for the usual long vacation to Oct 7th.
24-10-1907: Attendance Medals were presented to Albert Harris and bars to Ernest West and Richard Couchman.
19-11-1907: The Rev Hawley presented sixteen certificates, granted by the Kent Education Committee, for Regular Attendance and Good Conduct.
19-12-1907: Miss Sparks, the Supplementary Teacher, will be absent today and tomorrow. She is being examined at Chatham in Part I of the Preliminary Certificate Examination.
8-1-1908. There is only a fair attendance this morning owing no doubt to the very rough weather.
18-1-1906: Received notice that Examinations for Labour Certificates will be held at the following places:
National School, Snodland, Feb 8th at 9-30
National School Wrotham, Mar 7th at 10-15
Boys School West Malling, April 4th at 9-45 a.m.
These certificates were granted to pupils over the age of 12 or 13, having produced a birth certificate, that they have 'been shown to the satisfaction of the local education authority ... to be beneficially employed' and they were then exempt from attending school.
28-2-1908: Thomas Harris and Norman-Clough are absent on account of their brothers suffering from Scarlet Fever.
2-3-1908: Miss E. Sparks is absent this morning—reason not known.
3-3-1908: A severe cold was the reason of Miss Sparks' absence yesterday
6-3-1908: Owing to very wet morning, the attendance is bad—25 are present out of a possible 39. Miss Sparks is absent—possibly from the same cause. Miss Sparks arrived at 11 o'clock this morning. The very wet morning was the cause of her late arrival.
1-4-1908: This being the first day of the school year, classes were re-arranged and new work commenced.
7-4-1908: Miss Sparks is sitting for Part II of the Preliminary Certificate Examination and will therefore be absent today and the following two days.
9-4-1908: Rec'd notice that John Fremlin passed the examination for Labour Certificate, held at West Malling, on Saturday last.
16-4-1908: The school was closed this afternoon for the usual Easter vacation extending to Ap. 24th.

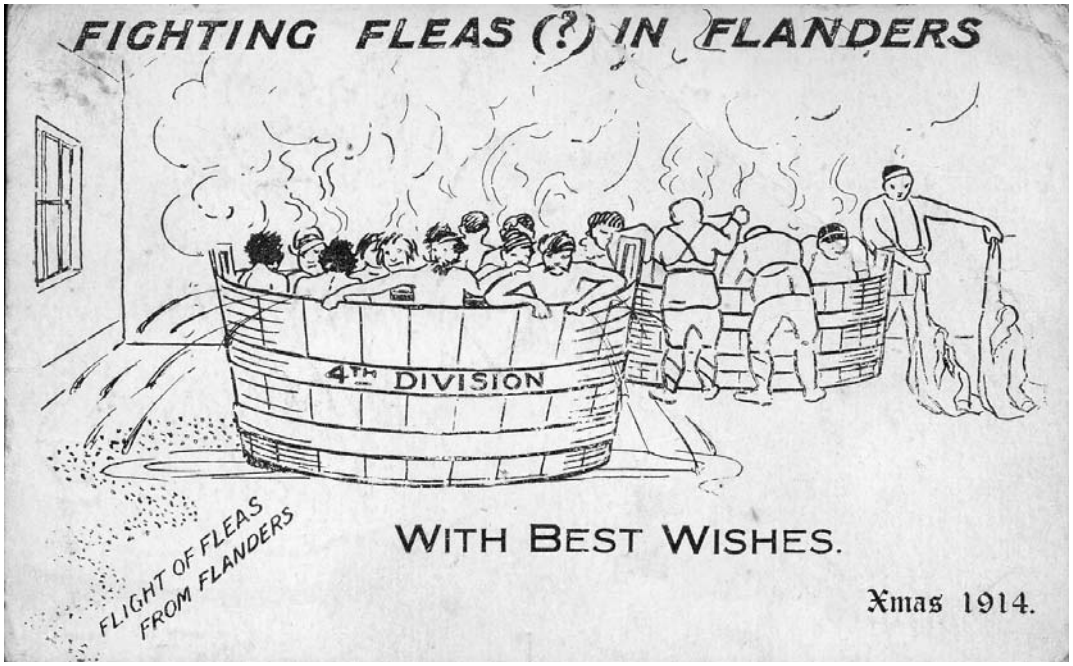
(To be continued)

Museum

As usual the Museum will be closed over the Christmas period: on and from Wednesday 17th December 2014 and will re-open on Wednesday 7th January 2015.

Four views of the WWI exhibition at Christ Church, 6-11 November 2014.
Pat Clements has kindly donated the picture of RAMC men outside the rear of the Bull, postmark 8 September 1915. The more-or-less illegible message on the reverse to Mrs Fairman, Church St, Burham from 'Alf'? [=Alfred, 2nd from left, middle row?]: 'Just a small photo of myself and mess; not up to mark, but will send you a better one. Hoping this will find you all well.'

We have copied several Christmas cards sent from WWI regiments



Snodland Historical Society Newsletter

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e-mail: aa0060962@blueyonder.co.uk

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Meetings

1 April 2015. David Rouse, Chairman of the Thames and Medway Canal Association, will give a talk on the history of the canal and the Association's work to maintain and develop it for use as a multipurpose amenity.

6 May 2015. We welcome David Carder again, this year speaking on 'Mediaeval Pilgrimage'

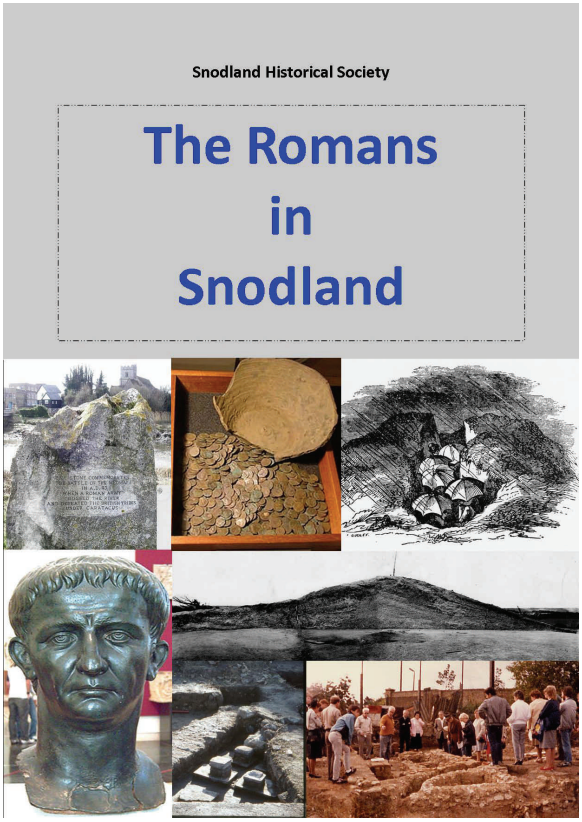
Other Events

June 13th. Open Day at All Saints church, 2—4-30 pm. Andrew Ashbee will give an illustrated talk: 'All Saints in Times Past' at 2-30 pm. There will be cream teas, stalls, and the opportunity to explore the building.

July 4th. The Society will again have a stall at the Carnival and this year will share a space with the Friends of All Saints.

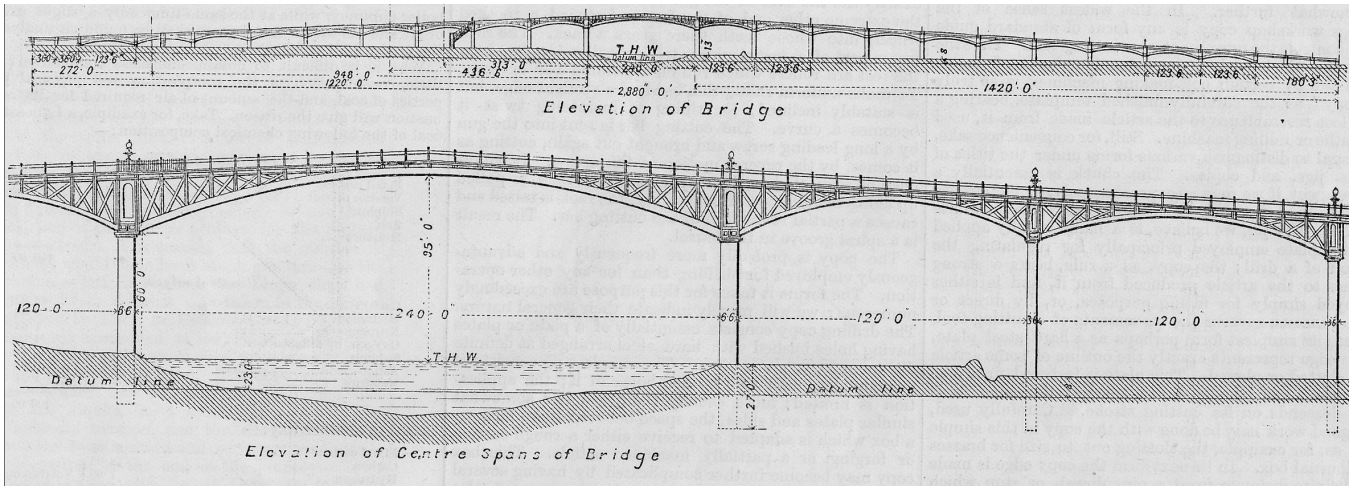
The Romans in Snodland

When the William and Edith Oldham Charitable Trust generously made a grant towards the purchase of the Roman coin hoard found in Snodland, Paul (their son) expressed a wish that by exhibiting them we should increase interest in local schools in the Roman history of the parish. (Roman history is one of the key-stage topics which schools can offer.) Christopher Howick, sometime a history teacher at Holmesdale, has compiled a 40-page pack of educational materials for us, which we intend to distribute (free of charge) to local schools on a CD-ROM. Some pages can be shown via a screen and activity pages can be printed-out as required. We are enormously grateful to Chris for all his work and expertise in devising this material and we hope it will prove very useful to all who use it. There is an additional four-page unit on 'The Battle of the Medway'.



World War I

The *Ancestry* web-site has recently added the service records for sailors serving in the First World War and details are being added to our records. There is one more casualty to add to our list: Frederick Thomas Barnden (who appears in Halling records), was actually born



in Snodland and was baptised at All Saints on 30 November 1884. For a time he was a labourer in the cement works, but joined the Navy on 12 March 1906, re-joining after a three-year gap on 7 August 1914. He was one of those tragically killed when the *Hawke* was torpedoed on 15 October that year. He was a 1st Class Stoker on the ship.

Web-site updates

On our web-site the lists of postcards have been updated, as has our 'Primary Catalogue' of documents.

The bridge that never was

It is well known that between 1875 and 1910 numerous attempts were made to erect a bridge between Snodland and Burham. The Bridge Warden's Trust at Rochester holds some 200 documents and plans relating to the schemes. Via e-bay we recently acquired two pages from a journal called *The Engineer* about one attempt, although I do not know if it is among the Rochester documents. Subsequently I found a report about it in the *Kent Messenger* and our member Malcolm Maclean has kindly referred us to www.kenthistoryforum.co.uk/index.php?topic=16102.0 (where more documents and plans are shown). On 21 January 1896 the *KM* reported a competition "'for the most economical and suitable design and estimate" to construct a high-level vehicular bridge, reached on either side by a viaduct, commencing, on the Snodland side, at Holborough-road, and at the Burham side, at a spot near the church of that parish.' The prize was £50 offered by the combined parish councils of Snodland, Burham, and Birling. Thirteen entries were made 'and the majority of them were found to be of great merit.' The specification required a roadway 18ft wide with two six-foot footpaths; the bridge over the river should be in one span, giving a clear headway of 75 ft above the high water mark. The maximum load to be 15 tons, sufficient for a traction engine. The judge was Mr de Michele of Higham and the winner was Henry Woodhouse of Liverpool. Plans for his bridge were published in *The Engineer* of 21 October 1896 and the account there shows the bridge to be nearly a mile long, with an estimated cost of £33,000 excluding the cost of land. It was hoped the latter would mostly be acquired without charge from the landowners. The Bridge Wardens had promised £12,000 towards the bridge (or an alternative at Halling), and the County Council would be asked for the remainder. A toll was intended to recoup the cost. The *KM* commented 'It must be added that the decision of Mr. de Michele in awarding the premium to Mr. Woodhouse has been adversely criticised by engineers.'

It would appear that there was no firm position for the bridge; the *KM* mentions it crossing 'about 200 yards above the Snodland railway station' with 'two staircases ... for foot passengers, one at Church Fields, and the other at Waghorn Road'. A glance at a map shows Waghorn Road is too short for this to match. (Incidentally this is the earliest use of 'Waghorn Road' yet discovered.)

Perhaps where Queen's Avenue now meets Holborough Road was the intended starting point, since that road had still to be built.

A further newspaper account of 28 August 1900, still advocating a bridge, printed the report of the Kent County Council rejecting the 1896 schemes at Halling and Snodland:

'Your committee have received deputations in support of each of these proposals and have examined the plans of the proposed bridges. They have also considered a careful report from the County Surveyor on the probable public utility of a county bridge at one or other of the proposed sites. In the result your committee have come to the conclusion that they are unable to recommend the Coucil to take in hand either of the proposed schemes, upon the broad ground thatthe demand for such a bridge is not sufficiently general in its character to justify the expenditure thereon of any part of the County Fund, and that no bridge at either of the sites in question would be of such general public utility to persons using the main roads and other highways of the district as to warrant the Council in burdening the Special Rate, not merely with a part of the cost of erection, but with the whole cost of maintenance hereafter, a liability of serious and uncertain extent.'

We also learn that proposals had been made in 1876, 1878, 1880, 1881, 1892 and 1895, and that 'a single day's record showed that no less than 781 persons crossed the river in this [ferry] boat, and it is modestly estimated that, on an average, over 600 persons use it every day.' Alas cement workers were not the general public.

School Log-book

A further instalment of entries from 1911 of the Leybourne Hulme school log-book:

10 March 1911: Owing to illness there have been no children in Standards VI and VII since March 3rd

23 March 1911: Received the following telegram this morning from Mrs Norman, the assistant Teacher:- 'Please grant leave remainder of week, too unwell.'

April 3 1911: 10 am The master will be away from school from this hour. His absence is due to the fact of his being an Enumerator in connection with the Census.

1 April. Admitted seven boys from Ham Hill, Snodland. They are very backward indeed.

7 April: The wintry weather this week has had an adverse effect upon the attendance

24 April: admitted five boys from Ham Hill. This makes twelve boys admitted from that district since the beginning of the school year – April 1.

8 May: In recognition of 7 years full attendance made by Ernest West, the Kent Education Committee are prepared to authorise the Manager requisitioning for a Special Reward (article required to be mentioned) for this boy not exceeding half a guinea in value, when he is leaving school.

1 June: For some reason the attendance is very poor this afternoon, only half the boys being present. The following is a copy of the Report of the Singing Examiner in connection with the West Kent Musical Festival (Junior Branch):-

'The Leybourne boys are always good. On a former occasion they achieved the distinction of passing every one present in the individual sight-singing examination, and this year, although the result was not quite so remarkable, they gained quite a high percentage of passes in a similar test. They have the double advantage of being small in number and of being trained by a Head master, Mr.

J.C.Thompson, who is an expert in all pertaining to school singing. The result of the training the scholars receive is seen in their precision in singing difficult two-part tests, in their ready answers to questions in the theory of music, and in their excellent voice production. All these topics were taken in the brief time allowed for the examination and in all of them the boys acquitted themselves well. It is very satisfactory to be able to report this favourably upon the singing. The individual attention that Mr Thompson is able to give to his scholars cannot but have a defining and elevating effect upon their character.'

25 June: The school was closed this afternoon for a week, to celebrate the King's Coronation.

Poor attendances: 5 July (Ryarsh Choir outing); 11 July (the Choir outing); measles (29 June to 21 July); 9 August (Malling Flower Show)

25 September: Admitted three boys, one of whom, although aged eight years of age, does not even know his twice times table, and is quite unable to read.

17 November: Owing to an exceptionally wet and boisterous morning the attendance is very bad indeed, only 21 boys being present out of a total of 51. Mrs Norman, the assistant teacher, [who lived at Chatham] was drenched. I sent her home again as it was quite impossible for her to stay and teach with the wet dripping from her clothes.

Film Studios

Interest in the film studios at the clock tower site has resurfaced again. On 7 April 1998 *The Daily Mail* printed an article following an enquiry: 'What became of the Medway Film Studios I saw being built at Snodland in 1935. Were films made there?' A response reported Snodland films starred Anna May Wong and Ralph Lynn, and another gave 'Old Bill of the River, some shots being taken on the Medway.' It is difficult to separate fact from fiction, so if anyone has memories or news of the activities of the film studio, we would be glad to hear them.

Here are some:

'The Studios, film producers, Holborough road' appears in the 1938 Directory.

The Auckland Star, [Australia] 22 August 1936. A Chinese film, to be written by S. I. Hsiung, author of that enormously successful play, "Lady Precious Stream," is to be produced at Snodland, Kent. The producing company is the Bijou Film Company, of which Mr. Lai Foun, the noted Chinese actor who will star in the picture, is a director. London and China will be the setting for the story which will concern a Chinese artist who, after a success in London, returns to China to marry. The Bijou Film Company has in preparation two other Chinese scenarios. In "Shadow Sweetheart" Mr. Foun will play opposite Diana Wong, and in "Violin Song" he will be partnered by a young Japanese actress, Margaret Kato. Similar accounts, copied from each other, appeared in *The Straights Times* 4 May 1936 [Singapore]; *New York Times* 24 May 1936; *The Evening Post* 2 July 1936 [New Zealand]; *Townsville Daily Bulletin* 14 July 1936 [Australia]; *The Auckland Star* 22 August 1936 [New Zealand].

I recently searched all the film catalogues on the shelves of the British Library but found no reference to any of the proposed Chinese films, or to Snodland film-making.

National School Admission Registers

A few years ago Mrs Hobson allowed me to make copies of the earliest surviving admission registers for the National (now Roberts Road) School before they were to be deposited in the Kent Archives. Recently Valerie Brown has heroically digitalised them and we have added them to a computer at the museum, where they can be searched. She has also transcribed the Cuxton registers 1560-1950, which are also placed there. Many thanks to her for what has been an enormous undertaking on our behalf.

Registers: Boys: 1906-1916; Girls: 1883-1920; Infants: 1909-1916.

Snodland Historical Society Newsletter

Volume 18, Issue 3 www.snodlandhistory.org.uk September 2015

Contacts

Dr Andrew Ashbee (Chairman), 214, Malling Road, Snodland, Kent ME6 5EQ

e-mail: aa0060962@blueyonder.co.uk

Secretary: Mrs Ann Pinder, 17 Midsummer Road, Snodland, Kent ME6 5RP

Subscriptions.

Subscriptions for the new season are due from 1 September 2015 and should be paid before February 2016, otherwise membership will lapse. They should be sent to Mrs Brenda Ashbee, 214, Malling Road, Snodland, Kent ME6 5EQ or paid at one of the meetings. Single subscriptions are £7.50 and joint subscriptions £10.00 a year. (I guess it would be helpful if exact money can be tendered if possible!)

Society Meetings 2015

7 October 2015. AGM. Following the business meeting Denis Anstey will give a talk on old views of the lower Medway and of the communities on its banks, arising from his research for his web-site: lowermedway.org.uk. There are some fine views to be seen there.

4 November 2015. We warmly welcome Richard Filmer again, who will speak on 'The Art of the Cooper'. This of course is particularly relevant to us because of the coopering shops in local cement works. It is difficult to find pictures of them though!

2 December 2015. Andrew Ashbee will present his annual slide show of local and Hambrook pictures which we have acquired for our collection or which have been recorded during the last year.

3 February 2016. I am very pleased that David Carder has accepted my invitation to speak again—this year his topic is 'Discovery and Innovation in the Stuart Period'.

2 March 2016. Wilf Lower presents 'Life upon the Wicked Stage': 'How the famous (and no so famous!) became entertainers and the reality of life behind the make-up is revealed in this fascinating—and light-hearted insight into a world where happiness and despair frequently sit uneasily side by side.'

6 April 2016. To be arranged.

4 May 2016. We are pleased to welcome Jo. Livingston who will speak on 'George Croydon Marks Forgotten Engineer'. She writes that he was a Victorian engineer who began his career at Woolwich Arsenal, built cliff railways all around the country and founded a patent agency which is still flourishing today. He was a Liberal MP, active in the Sunday School Union, a director of Columbia Pictures and became one of the first Labour MPs at Lord Marks of Woolwich.

New pamphlet in preparation

At the Carnival Helen Orme suggested that a pamphlet on Snodland road names would be useful and I have been working on it. It was surprising to find that a mere list took three pages. I am consulting Town Councillors who I hope will be able to help with some of the personal names which have been allocated. It is good that the practice of using local names continues, even if they might seem strange to newcomers.

One road name in the Holborough Lakes estate is Poynder Drive. I have been trying to sort out something of the family, who were here for some 30 years between about 1819

and 1851 at least, but because of similar forenames it has not proved easy, in spite of their considerable wealth and standing. The Holborough estate of John May (d.1805) was bequeathed to Edward Wickham, who in September 1819 sold it to Thomas Poynder [I] (1751-1837) and William Hobson. This firm had been active for many years. Poynder, son of Thomas of Wootton St. Laurence, Hampshire, deceased, was apprenticed to Edward Wix of the Tylers and Bricklayers Company on 21 January 1765 and married Wix's daughter Mary at St Peter's, Cornhill on 7 November 1775. They traded as Wix and Poynder until the former's death in 1787. Poynder and Hobson, coal and lime-merchants, had premises in Scotland Yard, where a serious fire occurred in 1816. By 1823 Poynder, with his son Thomas [II], and Hobson were trading as lime-merchants and co-partners from buildings in Earl Street, Blackfriars, when a much-reported court case was brought against the elder Poynder for refusing to take the office of overseer of the poor for St Ann's, Blackfriars on the grounds that he was not a householder living at the buildings.

It was Thomas [II], baptised at St Peter's, Cornhill, on 4 April 1779 who came to live at Holborough to manage the lime works. He was the eldest son and second of eight children of Thomas [I] and Mary. He had married Sarah Mariane Cooper at St Mary, Battersea, on 20 June 1808. They lived at Montague Place, Bloomsbury, and the following children were baptised at St George's, Bloomsbury:

Mary Ann	b. 11-9-1809;	bap. 11-10-1809
Thomas Henry Allan	b. 29-1-1814;	bap. 13-4-1814
Isabella Rebecca	b. 10-2-1816;	bap. 2-4-1816
Edward Samuel	b. 13-6-1817;	bap. 17-7-1817
William Henry	b. 3-2-1821;	bap. 10-4-1821
Sarah Matilda	b. 26-11-1822;	bap. 18-3-1822

The family were in Snodland by 1823, living at Holloway Court. A further daughter, Frances Ann, was baptised at All Saints on 2 August 1829 'by the Rector of Imworth, Essex.' It is interesting to find that Henry Poynder, brother of Thomas [I], had been a curate at Imworth in 1811, although he was not there in 1829. Another brother, William, was also in Holy Orders. In his *Memories of Malling and its valley*, Rev. Fielding records that the second window from the west end in the north aisle of All Saints 'was given to the Church by Miss Mary Ann Poynder, Miss Isabella Rebecca Poynder, Miss Sarah Matilda Poynder, Miss Frances Ann Poynder'. Unfortunately we have no idea of what it was like, or the date it was inserted, although Rev. Phelps tells us it was made by 'Miller', perhaps Joseph Hale Miller (1777-1842). Thomas [I] died at his house at Clapham Common in 1837 and was buried 'in the Poynder vault' at Wootton St Laurence, Hampshire, on 18 May. His estate was valued then at £370,000.

It is not clear when Thomas [II] left Snodland, but in later years he had a home in Wimpole Street, London. It is possible that he spent some time at Northfleet, where the firm had another works, since a Thomas Poynder was there in 1840. The Northfleet works was also managed by Edward Medlicott (d.1850), who had been with the firm in London by the 1820s and who took over after William Hobson had died in 1840. William Lee acquired the Holborough estate in 1843. Thomas [II] died in 1856 and his will includes many bequests. One is for £10 for a mourning ring to 'the Rev. H Dampier Phelps of Snodland' and another for £200 'to my butler and valet William Lutchford commonly called James Lutchford'. This must be William Letchford, baptised at All Saints in 1821, a member of the Holborough family and who clearly was a valued servant. After Thomas [II]'s death he became butler to his son William Henry Poynder (1821-1880). In 1851 William Henry was living in Waghorn's house and the next year an advertisement shows him to be 'Lord of the Manor of Veles, alias Snodland' to whom the rents should be paid on 24 November. In 1857 his lease of Middle [Clements'] Farm expired, and in 1867 as Lord of the Manor he gave the ground to enlarge the churchyard at All

Saints.

Thomas [I] bought the village of Hillmarton, Wiltshire, in 1813, and it descended to his grandson Thomas Henry Allan Poynder (1814-1873), who acquired the Hartham Hall estate.
This descended to William Henry after THAP's death and explains why William Letchford was still serving the family in Wiltshire. The 1871 census shows that WHP, unmarried, lived in a small house with just Letchford and a cook as servants. He paid for a major restoration of the church and was buried at Hillmarton on 10 August 1880. There is a memorial window to him and to his sister Isabella.

Hulme School, Leybourne

I realised recently that the damage to the school building in 1908, shown in a postcard, ought to be recorded in the log-book which we have. It is:
'September 28th. The school was re-opened this morning after the hopping holidays. The walnut tree, in the centre of the playground, was blown down during a gale on September 1st. The tree, in falling, did some damage to the north wall of the school.'
So the pupils were all away hopping at the time.

Museum

Ted Connell of the Kent Archaeological Society, has temporarily taken away several boxes of Roman pottery in order to try to establish a more precise dating for it. The final report on the dig behind the Queen's Hotel has now been published and we have acquired a copy.

Postcards

Through Ted (and arising from a chance mention of Hambrook in our conversation) he forwarded a query to me from Robert Appleton of Tonbridge concerning a Hambrook postcard of Ash. I was able to identify this as Ash in East Kent and not the nearby village on the North Downs that Robert was interested in. We have since corresponded regularly and he has kindly sent scans of a number of Hambrook postcards to add to our collection. These are mostly of Longfield, Ridley and Cobham and will be shown at the December meeting. We are also turning our attention to a series of postcards printed in the 1920s which have a curly kind of script. Some of these at least would appear to be by Hambrook, but others are not. They are all fairly local. A group of five corresponding to Hambrook Nos. 1074-1078 are of this later type and may have replaced the original numbered pictures. They are 1074: Mausoleum, Cobham Woods; 1075: War memorial, Cobham; 1076: Cobham Hall; 1077: Old Porch, The College, Cobham; 1078: The

College, Cobham. The War memorial must be after 1918, so it is not clear what the original view might have been, although Hambrook did take an opposite view from the other side of the road.

Waghorn

Since we mounted the exhibition to commemorate the bi-centenary of Waghorn's birth in 2000, it has always been my aim to write a proper book about him. The pamphlet (No. 12) has worn surprisingly well, but it lacks any references to the sources for the information. I had completed most of a draft text by around 2010, but felt I needed to see the papers about him in the P&O archive at the National Maritime Museum. Unfortunately the museum was about to be closed for 2-3 years because of work preparing the nearby Olympic site. Furthermore, three days notice were required to produce the documents, so nothing more was done. Once more this year we are expecting Australian visitors who are descendants of the family and this prompted me to begin work again on the book. I visited the very new and sparkling library at the National Maritime Museum, only to find that the file I had waited so long to see was of no interest. It comprised a well-known book on Waghorn by Marjorie Sankey (which we already have) and a number of modern items—nothing from Waghorn's time, which I had hoped for and expected.

Nevertheless the delay has had some advantages. The Internet continues to expand and more and more newspapers are being digitalised. When I began, only the *Times* was available in this form, but now the British Library is adding more and more material, including papers like *The Morning Chronicle* and *Morning Post* which also reported on Waghorn's career with interest. Several papers from the major cities like Liverpool, Manchester and Glasgow are equally helpful, as are other regional issues. Many Australian newspapers can be seen on the *Trove* web-site and are a rich source. Waghorn appears in many documents catalogued by The National Archives of India in Delhi.

Some years ago I showed a CD called 'The Waghorn Story' which was made by a South African philatelist who collected material relating to him. I have been in touch with various philatelic societies in the hope of tracking down the present whereabouts of some interesting documents shown in the CD and which seem to have passed from collector to collector over the years. Of particular interest is a portrait of Waghorn which appears to be the daguerreotype photograph taken in 1847 and which was bequeathed by Harriet Waghorn to her executors. (There may have been more than one copy of course.) One of our Australian visitors told me tf a portrait of Waghorn which used to hang in her house and which was sold at Sotheby's in 1979. The firm catalogued it as by Sir George Hayter (who painted the well-known portrait), but it turns out to be by Charles Baxter; an engraving of it was also produced at the time (see the National Portrait Gallery website). It would be good to know where the painting is now.

The memorial

Waghorn's headstone has become almost illegible over the years and I would like to get the inscription re-cut. I have approached two local firms for estimates, but the final figure will depend very much on whether the stone is sufficiently strong to withstand the work, or whether an entirely new stone would need to be made. If the present stone can be retained the cost would be in the region of £1000, but if a new stone is needed this will rise to c.£3,400.